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Turning hatred to art
'Reversing Vandalism' of
gay books at SF Library.
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Kerry offers support for Massachusetts marriage ban

by Cynthia Laird

Democratic presidential front-runner John Kerry on Monday offered conditional support for an amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution banning gay marriage, telling NPR's All Things Considered that "it depends entirely on the language and whether it permits civil unions and partnership or not."



Senator John Kerry

His comments indicated that if a proposed amendment contained such language, he would support it.

Kerry's comments came as the Massachusetts Legislature prepared to convene a constitutional convention Wednesday, February 11 to consider an amendment after the Supreme Judicial Court last week reaffirmed its November 2003 decision that said it was unconstitutional for the state to deny marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Civil unions, the court said, were not enough.

The decision paves the way for Massachusetts to begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples in May. A constitutional amendment would not come before Massachusetts voters until at least 2006.

Kerry, a Massachusetts senator, said he supports civil unions and domestic partnerships, but was adamant that marriage should be between a man and a woman.

"I'm for civil unions and I'm for partnership rights," Kerry said. "What ought to condition this debate is not the term 'marriage' as much as the rights that people are afforded."

"I think [the word] 'marriage' gets in the way of the whole debate," Kerry told NPR. "Marriage to many is what's sanctified by the church. I think marriage is a separate institution. I think marriage is under the church and between a man and a woman."

Asked by NPR about those marriages not performed in houses of worship, Kerry remained steadfast in his opposition to gay marriage.

"Even for those marriages," he told the station. "What you call something is not that critical."

Local LGBT leaders reacted with outrage.

"I am really steamed. For a candidate for president to be so clueless about the government's role in marriage and have this myopic view that marriage is only religious is not only

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10 beary good years

The Bears of San Francisco's 10th annual International Bear Rendezvous takes place this weekend, and nearly 1,000 bears and their admirers are expected to descend on the city for parties, dances, and of course, the IBR contest Sunday night. Above, these bears enjoyed last year's event, which included a trip to Alcatraz Island. See story, page 15.

Lynn Ludwig

Rick Gerhardt

Bush to back marriage ban

by Cynthia Laird

Key advisers to President Bush said Tuesday, February 10 that the president will endorse the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would define marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

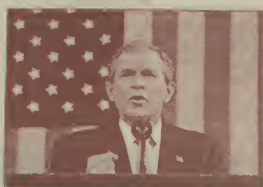
First reported in the *Washington Post*, the advisers indicated that the president will soon publicly support the language introduced by Representative Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colorado) that backers contend would ban gay marriage but not prevent state legislatures from allowing civil unions and domestic partnerships that are available in Vermont and California.

As the *Bay Area Reporter* went to press, the White House refused to commit the president to supporting the FMA. The Associated Press reported that White House press secretary Scott McClellan said the administration is closely watching events in Massachusetts, where state lawmakers convened a constitutional convention to address an amendment that would ban gay marriage in that state. The move comes after the Supreme Judicial Court — the state's highest — reaffirmed its November ruling that gays are entitled to nothing less than marriage and that civil unions are not enough.

Reaction from community members and allies was swift.

The Human Rights Campaign accused the president of using the gay marriage issue as a way "to start the general election campaign on a fresh issue." HRC also said that contrary to what backers of the amendment say, it could also prohibit civil unions or other legal protections for same-sex couples and their children.

"This amendment could take away any state's right to make its own enforceable policy to protect its same-sex couples. Make no mistake, this amendment is neither compas-



President Bush

sionate nor conservative," HRC President Cheryl Jacques said in a statement.

Jacques also referred to Bush's appearance Sunday on NBC's *Meet the Press*. "The president talked this weekend about freedom and protecting the minorities in Iraq. What about the

freedom of the minorities in his own nation?" The American Civil Liberties Union said that the FMA would "completely deny all government benefits to unmarried couples, be they gay or straight."

The ACLU also noted that the measure as written is "fundamentally at odds with basic principles of federalism and state authority, which has made the amendment a wedge issue even among conservatives."

Several noted conservatives, including columnist George Will, have argued against amending the Constitution to ban gay marriage.

Log Cabin Republicans Executive Director Patrick Guerriero said his organization will fight the proposed amendment.

"As conservative Republicans, we are outraged that any Republican — particularly the leader of our party and this nation — would support any effort to use our sacred United States Constitution as a way of scoring political points in an election year," Guerriero said. Mark Mead, LRC's political director, said, "Log Cabin will fight the Federal Marriage Amendment all across this country, state by state, if we must."

Molly McKay, a San Francisco attorney and Northern California executive director of Marriage Equality California, told the *B.A.R.* that Bush's anticipated announcement "shows how little Bush understands the issues."

"It's a major political misstep," she said. "He's putting himself at odds with members of his own party." ▼

SF to sanction gay marriage

by Matthew S. Bajko

At noon today (Thursday, February 12), when gay and lesbian couples demand marriage licenses from San Francisco County Clerk Nancy Alfaro, they most likely will be told, "Come back next week."

Working in conjunction with the city attorney's office, Alfaro is looking into ways the city and county can issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The move comes after Mayor Gavin Newsom sent Alfaro a request on Tuesday, February 10 that asked her to determine the necessary changes to the "forms and documents used to apply for and issue marriage licenses ... in order to provide [them] on a non-discriminatory basis."

On Wednesday, Alfaro said she hoped to meet with the city attorney's staff that afternoon to discuss the family and health and safety codes that pertain to marriage as well as what changes can be made to her office's forms.

"We want to see what the city attorney's staff says we can do," said Alfaro. "How soon we can get this going — I cannot answer that question until I speak to them."

Chief Deputy City Attorney Therese Stewart, an out lesbian, said she hopes to get to it by the end of the week.

"If we possibly can, maybe a little sooner than that," said Stewart on Tuesday. "I do not

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Gavin Newsom

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Happy Valentine's Day!



U.B. Morgan and Will Shank hold their daughter, Stassa, for face painting at the Our Family Coalition's Valentine's party, held at the LGBT Community Center February 7. The event was one of several OFC holds throughout the year for LGBT parents and their children.

Later 'last call' clears first hurdle

by Zak Szymanski

A nonbinding city resolution in support of extending late night bar and nightclub hours was adopted by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, February 10 by a vote of 8-3.

The resolution, introduced by Supervisor Aaron Peskin, urged the state Legislature to take action to amend Alcohol and Beverage Control regulations so that last call hours in certain establishments could be extended to 4 a.m.

San Francisco is one of the only tourist-destination cities with a last call of 2 a.m., lagging behind major cities like New York and Miami but also smaller cities including Portland, Oregon and Fort Worth, Texas.

With the Board's adoption of

the resolution, Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) is now expected to introduce state legislation to extend last call hours. Such legislation would affect only the San Francisco bars zoned for after-hours operations and would allow jurisdictions to opt-in or opt-out of the later serving times, said Leno, who emphasized that the extended hours will simply bring San Francisco up to speed with the rest of the country, allowing its businesses and workers to earn more, and attracting more visitors who factor night culture into their destinations.

"The businesses which would be affected are many. All the wait staff of restaurants and bars would make more wages. Musicians would be employed for longer hours. All the multi-cultural and ethnic expressions of dance, music, and poetry would

have greater opportunities to carry on later into the night," Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter* last week. "I think it's rich with possibility."

Leno also pointed to data demonstrating that later last calls are also associated with fewer alcohol related traffic deaths, according to data from the National Traffic Safety Administration, as bar patrons tend to cram more liquor into the space of an hour when pressed for time.

The last call legislation effort was first organized by members of the San Francisco Late Night Coalition, and then approved unanimously last year by the San Francisco Entertainment Commission, a diverse body of representatives from the public health, law enforcement, and entertainment sectors. The commission then brought the proposal to local and state legislators.

Those supervisors voting against the resolution at the board meeting Tuesday were Supervisors Tony Hall, Sophie Maxwell, and Gerardo Sandoval. The adopted resolution, while not binding, should encourage support for Leno's proposed state legislation. ▼

Correction

An article on a supportive housing project for queer youth ["Dufty pushes housing"] in the February 5 issue misidentified the president of the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association. He is Peter Albert. The *Bay Area Reporter* regrets the error.

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Abbott Labs faces boycott, investigations

by Zak Szymanski

A group of prominent physicians has signed onto a boycott of all products from Abbott Laboratories in light of the drug company's recent price hike of its HIV/AIDS medicine Norvir. Additionally, treatment activists have filed lawsuits across the country against Abbott, and some key state agencies are investigating the Norvir increase. The federal government may investigate the matter.

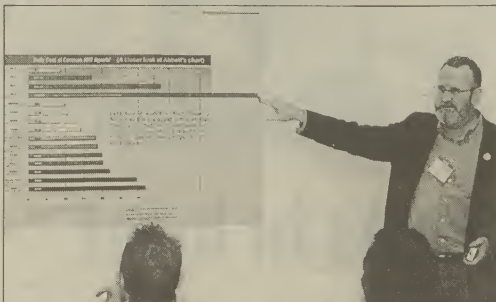
These announcements were made by the AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition at a news conference held at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation on Tuesday, February 10. Representatives from across the country were on hand to describe what they called an "unprecedented" price hike by a pharmaceutical company that has stirred unprecedented anger throughout the medical and political communities.

Norvir – the brand name for ritonavir – was originally developed as a full-dose protease inhibitor but is primarily used these days in smaller doses as a "booster" for other drugs.

In December, just days after World AIDS Day, Abbott announced that Norvir's price would increase from \$20.52 per 1,200 milligrams to \$8.50 per 100 milligrams. The increase was initially reported as 500 percent, although advocates have clarified that the move was actually a five-fold, 400 percent price hike.

Abbott's own rationale for the drug price increase included the fact that people now take less of the drug than its original pricing took into account. The company also claimed that the hike was necessary to pay for future research efforts, and that under-insured patients would continue to receive the drug for free, regardless of their incomes. Adding insult to injury, said advocates, the company actually claimed that its drug remains the cheapest protease inhibitor prescribed.

But as Bob Huff from New York's Gay Men's Health Crisis



Bob Huff, of New York City's Gay Men's Health Crisis, points to the high cost of Norvir.

demonstrated, 100 milligrams of Norvir may be cheaper than 1,200 milligrams of another drug, but a full dose of Norvir is "off the chart" when it comes to standard pricing.

AIDS advocates also rebuked Abbott's rationale for the increase, pointing out that Abbott is rarely involved in unprofitable research; that Norvir "sells itself" and is a "zero-cost, money making drug" for the company because so many treatments rely on it; and that patients who exceed their insurance caps due to Norvir's increase may continue to receive Norvir for free, but will be left in the dust when it comes to paying for their other medicines.

The real reason for the hike, said advocates, is that it allows Abbott to corner the market on combination therapies. Abbott's Kaletra, which contains Norvir, has not been affected by the Norvir increase, which means physicians looking to save their patients money will likely favor Kaletra over other protease inhibitors plus a boosting dose of Norvir.

Tuesday's news conference was meant to give voice to those who refuse to be forced into such practices. The hundreds of nationally prominent doctors who have signed onto the Abbott boycott have pledged to refuse to meet with Abbott sales representatives, and to prescribe drugs other than Abbott drugs whenever a patient's health will not be compromised.

They also have emphasized that their advisory relationships with Abbott are no longer in effect, and that "we're going to terminate their free access to our advice," said Dr. Benjamin Young, an HIV/AIDS physician in Denver, Colorado.

In addition to the boycott, Abbott faces investigations over the Norvir hike from the attorneys general of New York and Illinois, according to recent news reports. And on Wednesday, February 11, the Los Angeles-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation announced that it had filed a federal lawsuit alleging violation of antitrust laws for the Norvir increase; the suit states, among other things, that in December 2003, Abbott "announced an unprecedented 400 percent price hike for Norvir, while leaving the price of Kaletra – which has Norvir as a significant component – unchanged." ▼

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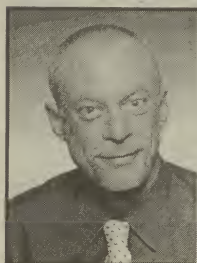
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Imperial Court candidates



This year's candidates for Emperor and Empress were presented at a reception earlier this month. From left, Robb, China Silk, and Fernando hope for the community's support come election day, which is Saturday, February 21 at the Castro Muni station, and Project Open Hand, 730 Polk Street. Voting is open to residents of San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo counties.

News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

FTFA fundraiser Saturday

The Filipino Task Force on AIDS will host its dinner-dance fundraiser, "Sayaw ng Pusoi" (Dance of the Heart) this Saturday, February 14 at the Westin Hotel, 1 Old Bayside Highway, in Millbrae. The evening starts at 6 p.m. with no-host cocktails and a silent auction, followed by dinner at 7 and dancing. Tickets are \$60 each and may be purchased through FTFA by calling (415) 920-2630. FTFA provides HIV/AIDS information and services to diverse segments of the Filipino community.

Valentine's Day party in Santa Cruz

In honor of Marriage Equality Week, the Diversity Center in Santa Cruz is hosting a party on Valentine's Day. The afternoon party takes place from 1-3 p.m. at the center, located at 177 Walnut Avenue. Co-sponsoring the event are Marriage Equality California and the GLBT Alliance. For more information, call the alliance at (831) 515-4101.

'Faux Fur Fashion Show'

San Francisco's favorite underground fashion extravaganza, the "Faux Fur Fashion Show" takes place Sunday, February 15 at Studio Z, 314 11th Street. Doors open at 7 p.m. The campy runway show features 20 one-of-a-kind faux fur creations, designed by students at

the Academy of Art College. There will also be a silent auction. Tickets are \$10-\$20, sliding scale and are available at the door. Proceeds benefit Dolores Street Community Services, the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, Maitri Hospice, and Pets Are Wonderful Support. For more information, call Robin Abad Oculillo at (415) 703-8510, ext. 39.

'Cook something up for your honey'

The upcoming President's Day weekend means it's time for Under One Roof's food sale, featuring nonperishable items from the recent San Francisco Fancy Food show. Volunteers clad in full chef's attire will roam the Castro throughout the weekend to spread the word about the sale. Last year's event raised \$60,000 in support of AIDS service organizations that participate in Under One Roof. The store is located at 549 Castro Street in San Francisco. For more information, call (415) 503-2300.

AIDS organization moves

Positive Resource Center has moved its offices. Executive Director Brett Andrews said that the agency's lease expired at the previous location. Andrews said PRC was able to take advantage of a failed Internet company's former offices, including lots of furniture. The organization that helps clients with benefits and job skills is now located at 785 Market Street, 10th Floor, in downtown San Francisco, between 3rd and 4th streets. An-

draws said that PRC will be hosting an open house on Wednesday, February 25 from 4-6 p.m. The phone number remains the same: (415) 777-0333, as does the Web address: www.positiveresource.org.

Starbucks offers nonprofit grants

Northern California nonprofits can apply for grants in Starbucks' fourth annual Grants for Giving program. This year the Seattle-based company will grant a total of \$375,000. The focus of the program is to support services or projects to help build better futures for youth and families. All groups considered must be 501 (c)(3) nonprofits and meet other eligibility requirements. The deadline for submitting a letter of intent is Friday, February 27. Application information is available online at www.starbucks.com/grantsforgiving or by calling 1-866-535-GIVE.

Voter registration deadline Tuesday

California Secretary of State Kevin Shelley wants to remind residents that the deadline to register to vote in the March 2 primary election is this Tuesday, February 17. People who have not yet registered or who have moved since the last election can log on to www.myvotecounts.org to register before the deadline or contact the registrar of voters office in your county. Additionally, applications for absentee ballots must be turned in by February 24. ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

DA drops charges against gay bar patrons

by Matthew S. Bajko

The San Francisco District Attorney's office has decided not to pursue legal action against patrons of a South of Market bar charged with lewd conduct, sources told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

On the night of November 14, 2003, state regulators arrested six men for allegedly having public sex in the bathroom at My Place, a gay bar on Folsom Street. The men were given citations and told to appear in court in January. The B.A.R. is not identifying the men.

The Friday night raid at the bar was the culmination of a seven-month investigation by the state Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control after the agency received complaints of sexual acts taking place inside the bar. Since the raid, the bar has been allowed to operate while the agency reviewed its liquor license.

After reviewing the matter, the district attorney's office decided not to charge the cases. Debbie Mesloh, spokeswoman for District Attorney Kamala Harris, said the case was not pursued partly because there were no complaining witnesses to the events.

Therefore, she said, the incidents the men were accused of "obviously didn't cause a threat to the public safety in the situation or to the bar patrons. The decision

by the D.A. was not to file this case but to let the ABC take appropriate action."

While the charges in this case were dropped, a source within the D.A.'s office stressed the decision should not be viewed as a "free pass" for men to have sex in bars. Future incidents of such behavior could be prosecuted, said the source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

As for Harris's decision, Andrew Gomez, the ABC's district administrator, said his agency is not disappointed in the charges being dropped.

"We have responded to the complaints in the way we needed to, and ultimately, it is a decision the D.A. had to make," said Gomez. "Our focus is not to drop a hammer on someone. We want to gain compliance."

The bar's owner met with ABC officials last Wednesday, February 4, to discuss what action would be taken. Gomez said the owner, Janice Buxton, is consulting with her attorneys on whether they should settle the matter or seek an administrative hearing.

The bar has been given the option of a stayed revocation, where it would be placed under probation for two years. If the ABC found it to be in violation of its liquor license during that time, then the agency would push to have its license revoked.

Because the matter is still

pending, the bar's manager declined to comment on what steps the owner would take, though he said he expects a decision to be made within the next week.

"My lawyers have advised me not to say anything while we are still in negotiations," said the manager, who goes by the name Cip.

Although he did add, "I am really glad the D.A. decided not to press charges."

Since April 2003, My Place had been placed under surveillance by the ABC after the agency received anonymous complaints about alleged drug use and lewd conduct occurring inside the bar. At the time, surprise inspections of the bar did not turn up anything to corroborate the complainants' allegations.

After being notified, the bar instituted new policies and hired staff to ensure no one had sex in the bathroom or used drugs on site. Then last fall, Gomez said his agency received calls from a man who reported sex taking place at the bar. During several visits in September, October, and November ABC agents documented such acts taking place and decided to take action against both the bar and its patrons.

The ABC has stepped up enforcement of bars since last spring after a court ruling that upheld its right to enforce rules against lewd conduct in bars. ▼



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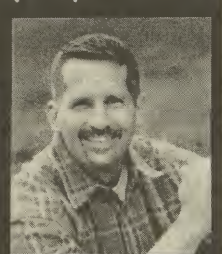


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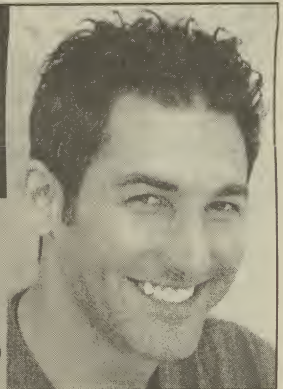
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OPEN FORUM

Enabling discrimination

With dipping poll numbers and a lackluster performance during a nationally televised interview on NBC's *Meet the Press* last Sunday, top White House aides told the *Washington Post* late Tuesday that President Bush will indeed endorse the Federal Marriage Amendment that would define marriage as the union of a man and a woman. This comes as no surprise to us; indeed, we expected the announcement during Bush's interview with Tim Russert on Sunday.

What did surprise us, however, were the comments on same-sex marriage by the Democratic front-runner for president, Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, in a Monday interview on NPR. As we report this week, Kerry offered conditional support for an amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution that would ban gay marriage, though he did say he supports civil unions and domestic partnerships. Kerry's comments, however, struck us as arrogant and condescending to gay and lesbian Americans, and, in fact, he sounded a lot like the president he so badly wants to replace. It was Kerry on the radio Monday who spoke of his view that marriage is what is "sanctified by the church" — even if marriages do not take place in houses of worship. It was Kerry who said, "I think marriage is a separate institution. I think marriage is under the church, between a man and a woman." It was Kerry who said, "What you call something is not that critical."

Not that critical? Please. Doesn't matter what you call something? Then why was he so insistent that "marriage" apply only to heterosexual couples? If it truly doesn't matter, then what's wrong

with "gay marriage"?

As we went to press this week, the Massachusetts Legislature convened a constitutional convention to discuss and vote on an amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution outlawing gay marriage. Regardless of the outcome, an amendment could not take effect until 2006 at the earliest.

In his interview, Kerry caved in to the arguments often used by Bush and the religious right. In short, it was awful; and it enables discrimination against

same-sex couples.

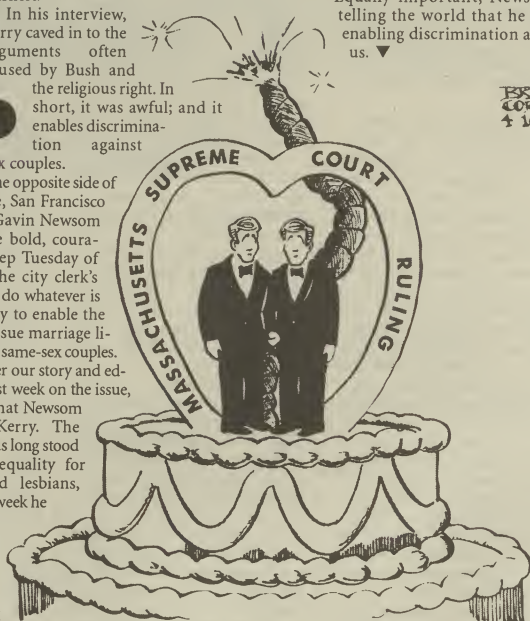
On the opposite side of the issue, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom took the bold, courageous step Tuesday of asking the city clerk's office to do whatever is necessary to enable the city to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. This, after our story and editorial last week on the issue, tells us that Newsom is no Kerry. The mayor has long stood up for equality for gays and lesbians, and this week he demonstrated that commitment in a big

way. The move puts San Francisco on the map and smack in the middle of the gay marriage debate, and while Newsom's order likely will result in the city facing legal action, let the courts decide whether banning same-sex couples from obtaining marriage licenses is discriminatory based on the California Constitution. We believe it is.

Equally important, Newsom is telling the world that he is not enabling discrimination against us. ▼



Editorial

BAY'S
CORNER
4.10.04

Claiming the right to marry

by Toni Broaddus

On Thursday, Assemblyman Mark Leno introduced the Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act to end discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation in the issuance of marriage licenses by the state of California. Equality California, the statewide lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights advocacy organization, is the bill's sponsor.

Why should California's LGBT communities take on a task as Herculean as marriage equality so soon on the heels of our amazing successes in the Legislature last year? We just passed a law to protect transgender Californians from discrimination in the workplace and in housing. We passed another law prohibiting discrimination in the foster care system, and still another law to ensure that state contractors offer equal benefits to employees with spouses and employees with domestic partners.

In California, 2003 saw passage of the most comprehensive domestic partners laws anywhere in the country, comparable to civil unions in Vermont. That law does not go into effect until January 2005.

So why introduce a marriage bill now?

Despite the sweeping impact of AB205, the Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003, same-sex couples in California will still have only about half the rights of their heterosexual counterparts.

And given the homophobic response of legislatures across the nation to recent events in Massachusetts, it is more important than ever that Californians stand up and speak loudly to reject bigotry in our laws. Twenty states are considering amendments to their constitutions to deny rights to LGBT people. And the right wing is pressing forward to write same-sex couples and their families out of the United States Constitution.

These are crazy times. In May, Massachusetts couples will be able to marry regardless of the sex of their partners. That could also happen here in California — and we should make sure it does, before the radical right makes sure it does not happen anywhere.

We have traveled a long road to obtain the rights and responsibilities under California's domestic partnership law, but we have not yet arrived at our destination. For families, the goal is equality. And equality means the same choices that other families have.

Whether we have domestic partners, or children, or whether we are avowedly single or comfortable live-ins, we all have a stake in the right to marry movement. This is not simply a battle over a piece of paper. It is a battle for our right to be treated as full American citizens, for our lives and our families to be honored and respected under the rule of law upon which our democracy is based.

We should never hesitate to articulate our right to be equal.

Martin Luther King said: "Courage asks the question, 'is it safe?' Expediency asks the question, 'is it politic?' And Vanity comes along and asks the question, 'is it popular?'"

But Conscience asks the question, "is it right?" And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must do it because Conscience tells him it is right."

There will always be reasons not to move forward, not to ask for too much, too fast. Will we pass a marriage bill this year? Unlikely. Will we pass a marriage bill in California in the next five years? Almost certainly — if we believe it is important, if we work to educate our fellow Californians, and if we elect legislators who have the courage to listen to what their consciences tell them is right.

And really — aren't you sick and tired of being on the defensive? The extreme right has managed to pass denial of marriage acts in 38 states — including Proposition 22 in California. They have already gone after our new domestic partners act and if they lose their lawsuit against it, we will almost certainly see another ballot measure in California.

When are we going to start framing the public debate about our families and our communities? The marriage bill is our

chance to be proactive instead of reactive. It is our chance to share the rich diversity of our lives and the way we care for each other with other Californians. The marriage bill is an opportunity to actively shape our own movement, to make our own history.

By articulating our right to marry, we assert our right to full equality in our most powerful voice. We cannot run from the threat of a federal constitutional amendment that would deny us any rights as family members. We cannot ignore the lawsuits against AB205, or the rhetoric about family values that privileges one religious world view over others. Instead, we must claim our right to choose our families.

We must claim our right to live as equals in society.

California's marriage bill is one way for us to do that. It allows us to claim for ourselves the rights

that other Californians already have. It allows us to educate others about who we are, and to prepare for future attacks from a position of strength.

As lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, we have many differences and many opinions. But if one thing unites us, it should be the determined belief that we are entitled to the same choices that any other people have. Marriage is one of those choices — and it is significant because it permeates every layer of society throughout the world. Marriage is an institution unlikely to disappear, and so it is an institution that must change — as it has throughout recorded history.

Whether we would have chosen this battle is irrelevant. Marriage equality is fast becoming the wedge issue in the national battle for control of the country. If we want to achieve full equality, we must take on this battle and we must frame the public debate in a way that encourages consistent progress toward the inevitable. We will win the right to marry, and we will become a stronger political force because of that victory. ▼

Toni Broaddus is the program director for Equality California.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Don't alienate our allies

Matthew Bajko's article outlining possible actions Mayor Gavin Newsom can take regarding gay marriage ("Gays push Newsom on marriage issue," February 5) was thought-provoking, which is exactly what good journalism is about. Bajko quotes Brandon Quinlan's suggestion that Newsom should show his support for same-sex marriages by ordering "the marriage license bureau removed from San Francisco City Hall..." Dale Hamilton says that if "San Francisco stops performing hetero marriages, other cities will follow suit." And Steve Weir mentions that Newsom "could dissolve" the County Clerk's Office, although adding that such action "wouldn't accomplish anything..."

My partner and I have been together for 37 years and we firmly support the right to same-sex marriage, which is a state, not a city or county, issue. Hence, we strongly endorse Assemblyman Mark Leno's proposed legislation to legalize gay marriage in California. For his bill to pass, then be signed by the governor, it will require support from our heterosexual friends. However, the proposals outlined by Messrs. Quinlan and Hamilton would antagonize our supporters, while accomplishing nothing from a legal perspective. As Supervisor Tom Ammiano said, "A more practical approach would be to work with our straight allies to make everything happen."

Closing down the office of the county clerk in San Francisco, assuming it could be done legally, would, among many other things, jeopardize the (admittedly less than equal) domestic partner benefits we now enjoy. These include hospital visitation rights and the right of a surviving partner not to have a jointly owned residence endure a property tax re-assessment, which, for longtime couples, is often the difference between keeping his/her home or being forced to sell it.

The mayor of San Francisco's legal powers are limited. Newsom is using his office as a bully pulpit to advocate for an end to this shameful discrimination. He supports Leno's legislation and will lobby other state legislators to vote for it, and, if passed, encourage the governor to sign it. He has denounced Bush's endorsement of a proposed constitutional amendment that defines marriage as only between a man and a woman and will urge members of congress to oppose it. In short, he is one of the "straight allies" Ammiano is counting on to "make everything happen."

If Newsom were to follow the proposals put forth by Quinlan and Hamilton, it would appear to be nothing but a fit of pique. Like the mayor, most people in San Francisco support same-sex marriages and Newsom can point to the city's policies as proof that they do not endanger heterosexual relationships, but rather, that they strengthen all families.

That, to me, makes sense.

Gustavo Serina
San Francisco

Baker Places responds

Baker Places Inc. would like to respond to your article of January 29 ("Kicked out for being drug-free?"). Your story and editorial seems to remove any doubt in the events and issues which occurred in relation to this individual and Baker Places Inc. In light of the fact that Baker Places Inc. cannot comment on any specifics with regard to the individuals who may be in our care, we are unable to respond to many of these allegations directly. There is, however, some general information which we would like to comment upon:

1. Each client is told at intake that Baker Supported Living is a treatment program and is asked to sign papers stating that the program length is six months. Clients may apply for permanent housing in a shared apartment if they require continuing care.

2. Baker Places is the tenant in the property discussed in the article and had been asked to vacate the premises.

3. Baker Places relocated all clients that requested continuing care.

4. The admission and discharge criteria for Baker Supported Living Program are determined by the Department of Public Health in compliance with federal regulations, which govern the use of Ryan White CARE funding. The program is, by definition, short term and treatment oriented. Like any other health related service, when clients' conditions no longer necessitate the clinical service, they are discharged so that the treatment slot can be opened up for those who are waiting. This is not "punishment" for recovery, but an acknowledgment that scarce service resources must go to those most in need.

Finally, Baker Places has been serving the community for over 36 years. We are committed to high quality services, organizational integrity, and responsiveness to the community we serve.

Jonathan Vernick, Executive Director
Baker Places Inc.
San Francisco

Former client offers his views

I am writing in response to the cover article of the January 29 issue, entitled "Kicked out for staying drug-free?"

This article is predominately one-sided, grossly

dramatized, and outrageously exaggerated by reporter Zak Szymanski and especially by William Scott Oliver, the so-called victim and recovering addict. I do not believe for an instant what Oliver states: losing housing after filing a grievance, being a victim of retaliation, or anything else is completely true.

I am an HIV-positive, recovering addict with four years of continuous sobriety. I lived about three years as a client of Baker Places and left the BSLP program completely satisfied and extremely grateful.

When I signed on as a client, I was thoroughly informed of the rules, regulations, and conditions of the program. Before moving in, I was introduced to the household and the current clients who already resided there. At that time, I was given a choice to move in or pass. If the apartment was undesirable to Oliver, he had a choice to either accept or deny the living situation. Believe me, the apartments are not luxury accommodations, but it beats living in a residential hotel, or the hard city streets of San Francisco. The room and apartment I moved into was less than perfect, but I chose to be proactive by cleaning it to my liking and creating a livable, comfortable space. (Buy a \$1.99 can of Ajax and get to work!) Carpets stained with blood and feces? Oh, come on. The rugs in our flat were cleaned professionally at regular intervals. If there were stains Oliver didn't like, he could have done it the old-fashioned way, on his hand and knees!

The odds are against us addicts. Most of us chronically relapse and very few of us achieve long term sobriety. This means that there is a good chance that you will be dealing with roommates relapsing in the household. Baker Places is also a harm reduction program, which means that if a client relapses, they are not moved out immediately. There were several situations where I had to deal with relapsing roommates, some of them unsafe, but they were all resolved in time.

Reporter Szymanski writes, "Oliver's biggest crime was his success at remaining sober." Oh, please: he's a victim and homeless only if he chooses to be.

Baker Places has done nothing wrong, unethical, or even unfair. They provided exactly the service he signed on for, as stated in the contract. Remember also that this organization is composed of human beings doing their job, dealing with households full of ego-driven, selfish, conniving addicts. Things get rough at times, okay?

Richard Bargetto from the city's HIV Advocacy Project states that clients "almost have to relapse if they want to keep their housing." Nonsense. You can't blame anyone or anything for your relapse.

Paul Oja
San Francisco

The bear majority

Statisticians tell us that most Americans are fat. Since gays are a subset of Americans, and we are consistently told that gays are no different from anyone else, it follows that the majority of gay Americans are fat. Therefore, most gay male Americans, issues of hairiness aside, could qualify as bears.

No doubt someone will try to refute this claim with anecdotal statements about gays being more likely to be gym members. However, evidence for my hypothesis can be found empirically. In June, stand on a corner as the Pride crowd goes by and take an informal census if you don't believe me. On the day when the most diverse cross-section of our community is visible in broad daylight, it will be clear that those with washboard abs are rare and those with love handles are plentiful.

But if bears are in the majority, bear images are not. The covers of gay magazines are plastered with muscle-bound, hairless young guys – and that's just the news magazines. Television also shows a narrow set of thin, white, young, urban white-collar able-bodied gay men, a representation that does not reflect reality.

Bears are an underserved majority. Rare are the safe sex posters or outreach materials produced by gay men's health organizations that feature bears.

Women have done much more thinking, writing, and activism in the size acceptance movement. It's time for men to help hold up the banner. Bears could learn something by picking up on the work that's been done by women. Some bears may also be in denial about the need for size acceptance activism. While the bear movement has doubtless made some people's lives better, it has been somewhat disappointing in terms of creating awareness of its existence beyond a coterie, encouraging political awareness and engagement, or sparking societal change. I think such ambitions are entirely appropriate and achievable.

This week, San Francisco hosts the International Bear Rendezvous, a time when the wider gay community finally "panders" to bears and welcomes their tourist dollars. While this weekend retreat may be fun and provide a chance to escape from rejection in the larger world, I'd like to encourage bears also to think politically and demand to be enfranchised. That may take the form of letter-writing, posturing visibility campaigns, and engagement and solidarity with fat activists of all genders and sexualities.

Larry-bob Roberts
San Francisco

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Rodney Karr, Ph.D.

Licensed Psychologist #PSY6906

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Composing ourselves

by Paula Martinac

Perhaps to placate moderates within the Republican Party, the Bush administration has announced that it is seeking a 15 percent increase to the operating budget of the National Endowment for the Arts. Archconservative, anti-public-arts-funding GOPers are livid, with some right-wingers harking back to the NEA's controversial funding of queer artists like Robert Mapplethorpe and calling for the agency's complete dismantling.

But the president has his bases covered: the desired increase of \$18 million, announced by first lady Laura Bush, will help subsidize a traveling initiative called "American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of American Genius," designed to bring great art to underserved communities in the 50 states. The first year of the program will highlight dance, music, and visual art. Given the administration's negative stance on gay issues, it's ironic that most of the canonical composers central to the NEA project were queer.

Of course, it's highly doubtful that the NEA initiative will publicize that fact as a selling point. The lives of some of the most distinguished American artists and composers remain hidden behind a veil of "don't ask, don't tell," and a double standard continues to permeate American cultural history. While a famous artist's heterosexual history is often perceived to have bearing on his or her work — especially if a lover or spouse was a muse or collaborator — homosexuality is still considered "private" information that shouldn't be brought up in polite company.

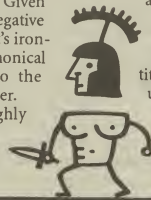
Consider, though, that the work of Aaron Copland is slated to figure prominently in the musical component of "American Masterpieces." Many of us learned in school that Copland was one of the greatest of all U.S. composers, who gave us such beautifully haunting works as *Appalachian Spring*. We didn't learn, however, that he was a gay man. Although he was out in music circles, Copland's sexual orientation didn't become public knowledge until after his death in 1990, because of the stigma attached to homosexuality.

So why is his sexuality worth bringing up now? According to his



CHRISTINE SMITH

biographer, Howard Pollack, although Copland never wrote on overtly homosexual themes, some of his scores contained "intriguing homosexual subtexts" that spoke to gay audiences. Creative subterfuge was, in fact, common among queer artists of earlier eras who had to keep their sexuality under wraps.



Lesbian Notions

Aside from the content of Copland's music, though, his sexuality is worth discussing for another reason: He influenced and shepherded the careers of numerous younger composers, most of whom were themselves gay or bisexual. Indeed, 20th century music would be very different and far less rich without the contributions of the many queer musicians to whom Copland lent a guiding hand, including Virgil Thomson, Samuel Barber (who is also featured in the NEA initiative), Marc Blitzstein, Ned Rorem, David Del Tredici, John Corigliano, and John Cage. In addition to profiting from Copland's musical experience, Del Tredici told Pollack that his mentor showed him "it was OK to be making music and be gay" — an invaluable lesson.

The music of Leonard Bernstein, another Copland protégé (and possibly lover), will also be showcased in "American Masterpieces." In addition to his many works for the concert hall, Bernstein gave the theater such quintessentially American musicals as *On the Town* and *West Side Story*. The fact that he was married to a woman for more than 20 years is a

matter of public record; but his intimate relationships with men — and the impact they may have had on his body of work — have remained largely in the closet.

Backing a program that celebrates great queer artists who lived at a time when silence about homosexuality was mandated — and rigorously enforced — strikes me as typical of Bush. As a candidate, Bush assured gay Republicans of his belief that sexual orientation is a private matter, irrelevant to the appointment of public officials; at the same time, his marriage to Laura was always on public display, placing his own homosexuality front and center.

And now the Bush administration has made homosexuality a very political topic. The president's support of the odious Federal Marriage Amendment, which seeks to write discrimination against one group of people into the U.S. Constitution for the sake of other people's religious beliefs, is a brazen attempt to keep lesbians and gay men in their place — quiet, submissive, and compliant with their second-class status.

When the first lady announced the proposed NEA funding increase, she remarked that "American Masterpieces" would help us all see that "there's no limit to who our children can become." But the message of her husband's administration is that "our children" should preferably grow up straight, or else, placidly accepting the stigma of their homosexuality. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of *Q Syndicate*. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

Cyclists get ready



JANE PHILIPPEL CHLAND

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation held a kickoff celebration February 8 for its third AIDS/LifeCycle event that takes place June 6-12. Riders and their supporters gathered at the W Hotel to register for the event and meet other participants. Last year's event raised more than \$4.3 million for HIV/AIDS services provided by SFAF and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center.

POLITICS

Dean reverses course

by Wayne Friday

After being the clear front-runner among Democratic presidential candidates for much of last year, former Vermont Governor **Howard Dean**, the most outspoken antiwar critic of the major candidates, watched his hopes of being his party's nominee evaporate first in Iowa on January 19, and then again in the January 27 New Hampshire primary. Frankly, despite having big-name endorsements from the likes of **Al Gore** and **Bill Bradley**, very little good has happened to Dean since the Gore endorsement in December, a fact he acknowledged in the *New York Times* Sunday.

Dean, once the high-flying, antiwar candidate that many Democrats thought was a sure thing to become their nominee, has failed to win a single of the more than a dozen primaries or caucuses held so far in contested states all over the country. Though Dean has been able to still raise political funds — mainly via the Internet — his now-famous “I’ve got a scream” speech the night of his unexpected Iowa caucus defeat clearly derailed his campaign and he has been unable to get back on the right track, despite having fired the campaign manager who engineered his campaign, notably toning down his antiwar rhetoric, and even persuading his reluctant doctor-wife, **Judith Steinberg Dean**, to occasionally join him on the campaign trail.

Dean's failure to win any of the contests this past week, and the growing strong showing by Massachusetts Senator **John Kerry**, means that the Dean for President effort could very well be on its last legs. Indeed, Dean himself, clearly disappointed at his showing to date, last week had publicly put the Wisconsin primary as the “do-or-die” contest for his campaign. On Monday, February 9 however, the *Washington Post* reported that Dean, in a sudden about-face, told local media in Green Bay, Wisconsin, that he is staying in the race no matter what the outcome of Tuesday's election. Dean admitted the reversal was an “obvious contradiction.”

Though the Dean campaign has quietly moved the political goal posts following each unexpected loss to date, some top Democratic strategists still say it is unclear how much Dean would actually gain from a win in Wisconsin, which, incidentally, is not expected to happen. By then, he will have gone through 16 states without a victory, not a good omen for a candidate who was once a clear front-runner.

Following Tuesday's primaries in Tennessee and Virginia, retired General **Wesley Clark** abandoned his race for the White House, narrowing the field and leaving North Carolina Senator **John Edwards** as the leading alternative to Kerry. Edwards went to Wisconsin Tuesday night, and vowed to press on with his campaign.

Neither Dean nor Edwards are eager to pull out of the race, but there is a matter of funds (they have a tendency to very quickly dry up for losing candidates) and many Democrats, still feeling bitter that the U.S. Supreme Court illegally put **George W. Bush** in the White House in 2000, are so eager to oust him, that even he



Newly appointed school board member Heather Hiles, left, meets with community residents Saturday at an ice cream social.

most ardent of those self-described “Deaniacs” are beginning to question whether he's the man to beat Bush. To be sure, electability trumps political passion every time, and hence, the growing Kerry bandwagon.

I'm betting that after an expected Kerry win in Wisconsin, Edwards and perhaps Dean will be running for a vice presidential slot on a John F. Kerry Democratic ticket.

Politics and people

Word out of City Hall has it that both former D.A. candidate **Bill Fazio** and Assistant District Attorney **Andrew Clark**, now working for District Attorney **Kamala Harris**, are “very seriously” thinking of running against Supervisor **Tony Hall** (District 7) in November.

I'm also hearing that some “true progressives” are trying to line up opposition to Supervisor **Tom Ammiano** in District 9 this year; I don't always agree

with Ammiano, but if any of the incumbents deserve re-election it is Ammiano (even though he was a bit quick with the lip in branding Mayor **Gavin Newsom**'s offer to cut his annual pay by 15 percent as “grandstanding” — hey, cut the new mayor some slack, Tom).

On Sunday, Democratic caucuses held in Representative **Nancy Pelosi**'s (D-San Francisco) 8th District for Democratic presidential candidates produced some gay/lesbian delegates: Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco), Treasurer **Susan Leal**, **Jeff Anderson**, **Jeff Soukup** (for Kerry); **Avery McGinn** (for Dean); and **Matthew Rothschild** (for Edwards).

Supervisor **Bevan Dufty** hosted an ice cream social at Isabella's Ice Cream Shop at Castro and 24th streets for out lesbian school board member **Heather Hiles** last Saturday. Neighbors stopped by to meet the new Board of Education member, who was named to the post last month by Mayor **Gavin Newsom**.

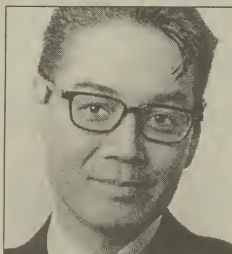
From the U.S. House to the jailhouse: Former Representative **Bill Janklow** (R-South Dakota) started a 100-day jail sentence Saturday in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as part of his sentence stemming from his conviction of second-degree vehicular manslaughter.

In the 2002 California legislative elections, Republicans gained one state Senate seat and two Assembly seats, but Republicans hope (and Democrats worry) that the GOP could possibly pick up a couple of more Assembly seats

this November.

Now that **Arnold Schwarzenegger** is governor, it seems that **Gray Davis** thinks there's room in Hollywood for him as an actor. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that the former California governor showed his career-rebounding skills last week in front of a crowd at the Staples Center in Los Angeles as he and comedian **Tim Conway** shot a scene for CBS' *Yes, Dear*. In the episode set for March 1 (8 p.m.), Davis plays himself and he and Conway get into a fight that ends up on the court. And, yes, Davis was paid for his acting gig.

Assemblyman **Mark Leno**, Supervisor **Bevan Dufty**, Board of Equalization Chairwoman **Carole Migden**, and the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Demo Club are among those hosting a reception/fundraiser on Thursday, February 19 at San Francisco's Yank Sing Restaurant, 49 Stevenson Street, 5:30-7:30 p.m., for Congressman **Tom Lantos** (D-San Mateo). Massachusetts Congressman **Barney Frank** will be the featured speaker (\$250; 415-615-0311, ext. 22 for info).



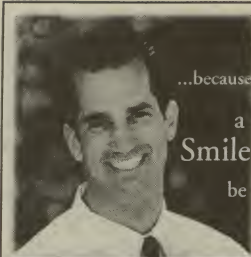
Lawrence Wong

Longtime gay rights activist **Lawrence Wong** will be installed as president of the board of Trustees of City College of San Francisco at a ceremony in the San Francisco City Hall Rotunda on February 18, at 4:30 p.m.

Finally, to the reader who keeps asking whether I think the Bush intelligence cops will “find” **Osama bin Laden** before the November election: For sure, probably sometime in August or September. And further, don't be shocked if Vice President **Dick Cheney** “voluntarily” leaves the GOP ticket this summer (health reasons, etc., you get the idea), particularly if the Bush Train Wreck of excuses on why he really went to war against Iraq continues to stay a hot issue in the upcoming campaign; this was, after all, Cheney's war (Cheney's motto: Deny, deny, deny).

Among Democrats, the Kennedy name is still magic: The slide for Howard Dean actually started the day after he was endorsed by Al Gore, and the former

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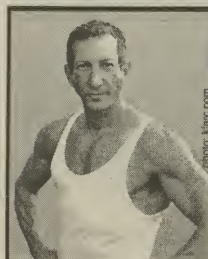
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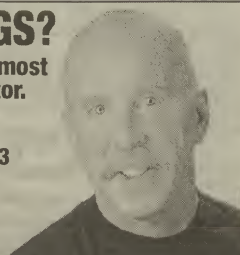
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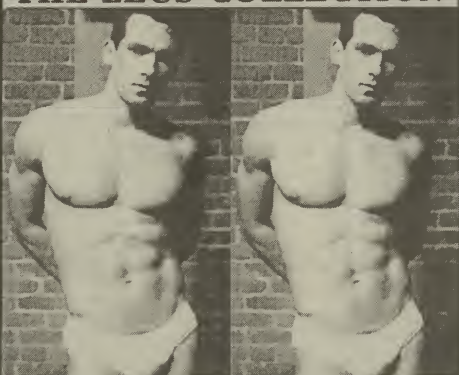
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What is the history of the same-sex marriage movement?

by Liz Highleyman

Today, same-sex marriage is in the news as never before, following favorable court decisions in Canada and Massachusetts. But the gains of 2003 were the result of a decades-long struggle.

The first same-sex marriage case to gain widespread attention was that of Richard John Baker, a law student at the University of Minnesota, and his partner James Michael McConnell. With their priest's blessing, the men applied for a state marriage license in May 1970. Their request was denied and the couple sued, arguing that their due process and equal protection rights had been violated. The following year, the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that past U.S. Supreme Court decisions did not support the men's position.

In the first marriage case involving two women, a lesbian couple in Kentucky argued that the denial of marriage infringed upon their rights to associate and to freely exercise their religion.

But a court ruled in 1973 that "what they propose is not a marriage."

Two years later, several same-sex couples in Boulder, Colorado, succeeded in obtaining marriage licenses after a local district attorney declared that no county laws specifically prohibited such unions. The state attorney general soon overturned the district attorney's ruling, however, and all same-sex marriage licenses were revoked.

Throughout the 1980s, lesbian and gay activists focused on gaining equal rights from local governments and employers by means of domestic partnerships, but in the decade that followed, many again turned their sights toward genuine marriage.

In December 1990, three couples — Nina Baehr and Genora Dancel, Tammy Rodrigues and Antoinette Pergil, and Pat Lagon and Joseph Melillo — applied for marriage licenses in Hawaii. When denied, they initiated a lawsuit, arguing that prohibition of same-sex marriage amounted to discrimination on the basis of sex. The Hawaii Supreme Court ruled

in 1993 that the state must show a "compelling reason" to deny same-sex marriage and sent the case back to a lower court. The justices cited earlier laws banning interracial marriage, reasoning that if marital partners could not be restricted on the basis of race, neither should they be limited based on sex. Three years later, Circuit Court Judge Kevin Chang again ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, rejecting the state's argument that same-sex marriage was detrimental to children. "This decision marks the beginning of the end to sex discrimination in marriage," declared Evan Wolfson, an attorney for the plaintiffs.

The Hawaii case ignited a national firestorm of controversy and spurred a stream of state laws that banned same-sex marriage and refused to recognize such marriages performed in other states. This reaction culminated in the federal Defense of Marriage Act, signed by President Bill Clinton in September 1996, which defined marriage as "a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife." Nevertheless, several states went on to pass their own "mini-DOMA" laws; by the beginning of 2004, nearly 40

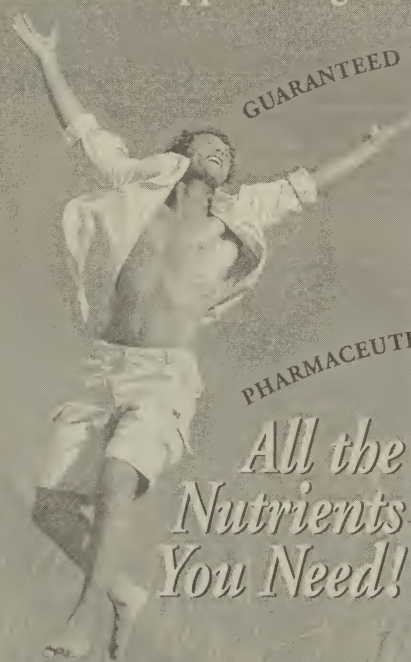
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Medical marijuana week coming up

by Liz Highleyman

National Medical Marijuana Awareness Week, an annual opportunity for medical cannabis patients and their advocates to call attention to the issues they face, will take place over the next several days, February 15-23.

The starting date commemorates Proposition 215, California's 1996 Compassionate Use Act.

"The movement for safe and legal access to medical marijuana is gaining ground with a growing coalition," said Hilary McQuie of Oakland-based Americans for Safe Access. "But we are at a critical moment. The achievements of the last year will come to nothing without further action."

Last year's achievements in-

clude several favorable judicial decisions, including the one-day jail sentence imposed on medical marijuana cultivator Ed Rosenthal in June, and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in December permitting "intrastate, noncommercial cultivation, possession, and use of marijuana for personal medical purposes."

Bay Area Medical Marijuana Awareness Week events include a community gathering on Sunday hosted by the Berkeley Patients Group, the city's largest medical cannabis dispensary. Monday will feature an evening procession in the Castro - dubbed the "Festival of Lighting Up" - to remember prisoners jailed for medical cannabis-related offenses. That will be followed by a Medical Marijuana Filmfest at the Parkway

Theatre in Oakland on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, February 18, ASA is asking medical marijuana supporters nationwide to send "Thank You" or "Spank You" letters to their congressional representatives, depending on how they voted on an amendment sponsored by Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-New York) that would have prevented use of federal funds to prosecute patients and providers in the nine states with medical cannabis laws.

Next Thursday, ASA encourages educational efforts targeting disease advocacy organizations, such as the Multiple Sclerosis Society, that focus on conditions that could be helped by medical cannabis.

For the latest updates on event times and locations, visit www.safeaccessnow.org. ▼

Oakland limits cannabis clubs

by Liz Highleyman

The Oakland City Council voted 7-0 last week to impose new restrictions on the number of cannabis clubs in an area of downtown known as "Oaksterdam" for its proliferation of pot purveyors.

The vote came after a lengthy meeting and was made in the early morning hours of February 4.

Instead of the existing dozen dispensaries, the new plan will limit the number to four, which may not be located within 1,000 feet of each other or of schools, libraries, youth centers, parks, or residential areas. Dispensaries must be run on a nonprofit basis, and may not allow on-site marijuana use. Existing clubs may apply for the four available licenses, but those that do not obtain a permit will be required to close. The new rules are scheduled to go into effect on June 1.

In addition, the council imposed a new lower limit on the amount of cannabis a patient may possess - eight ounces of processed marijuana, six mature plants, and 12 immature plants - in accordance with state law SB420, passed last fall.

The concentration of cannabis clubs around Telegraph and Broadway came to the attention of the media last summer, generating sometimes rancorous debate. Oakland Vice Mayor and council member Nancy Nadel, whose dis-

trict includes Oaksterdam, and the Uptown Merchants Association expressed support for the dispensaries, claiming they added economic vitality to the depressed neighborhood.

The strongest criticism came from the staff of the Sexual Minority Alliance of Alameda County, which serves disadvantaged LGBT youth of color. SMAAC, which until recently occupied a building on Telegraph Avenue between two cannabis clubs, claimed its young clients had been approached by club members seeking to resell their marijuana, and that pot smoke from the nearby dispensaries permeated the agency's basement.

SMAAC Executive Director Roosevelt Mosby told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the organization relocated last November because the environment was not conducive to serving at-risk youth. He said last week's council action would not induce SMAAC to move back to Oaksterdam. The agency has since found a new building on Webster, and is seeking assistance from the City Council or the community to help make the space habitable.


"My concern is not so much with the clubs, but with getting help to move SMAAC to a safe environment," Mosby said. "We support medical marijuana, but not in the same area as young people."

Last week the council voted overwhelmingly for the regulations despite spirited testimony

from medical marijuana patients and advocates. Cannabis advocates strongly opposed the indoor smoking ban, claiming it would lead people to use their marijuana on the streets, and argued that the number of licensed clubs should be higher, say between nine and 12.

"I think we should allow smoking on site because the social

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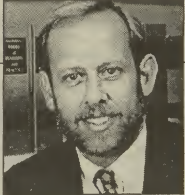
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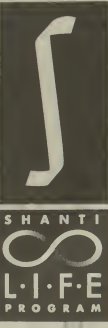
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UCSF names new director of ARI

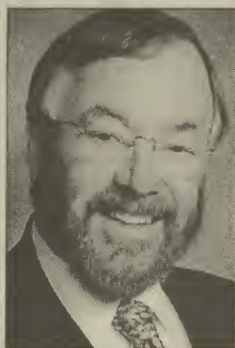
by Matthew S. Bajko

The new director of the University of California, San Francisco AIDS Research Institute, in an interview this week, challenged President Bush and congressional leaders to fully fund the global fight against AIDS and stated he is against shifting research overseas at the cost of treating patients in the United States.

"We have our own Third World populations in our own country," said Dr. John S. Greenspan, dean for research at the UCSF School of Dentistry, who became the permanent leader of ARI this week. "As a group of scientists and a nation we don't have any choice. We have to take care of our own in San Francisco, California, and the United States."

As reported last week, a reorganization under consideration by the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases could shift a large portion of AIDS research overseas. Activists are concerned such a move would have a negative impact on people living with AIDS in the U.S. and curtail their access to treatment and care.

In speaking with the *Bay Area Reporter* on Monday, February 9, Greenspan said "we have to do both" when it comes to research conducted in the U.S. and in other



Dr. John S. Greenspan

countries.

"They are mutually supportive. The big issue for us is funding, it is obviously not adequate. What is needed for this country and other countries is to fund the global AIDS fund," said Greenspan, referring to the United Nations' Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. "Unless we and other rich countries recognize the current disaster and impending catastrophe, with 40 million people infected now and who knows how many in years to come, obviously we are not going to succeed in ending the epidemic."

He also called into question the administration's decision not to

increase funding for either the NIH or the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. When asked if a change in administration after the November election would improve the funding situation, Greenspan responded that historically, politicians have been very supportive of health funding, and that "if we can get back to that support I would be happy with any administration."

"It is also true the current administration's policy and effect on NIH is a disappointment to us in AIDS research," added Greenspan. "We had hoped to see continued growth in the NIH budget and better funding for the global fund."

He did say he was glad to see NIH director Elias Zerhouni defend the work of researchers who had come under attack by conservative groups and Republican lawmakers last year.

"I have been astonished from the first time I heard about the hit list" of researchers Greenspan said, adding he couldn't think of a single other incident that "has upset me or scared me more."

He said any decision to defund the researcher's work would have been "totally unacceptable to us. The current administration did the right thing and it will be that much more difficult for any group of bigots to mount that kind of attack on the work we do."

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AIDS researchers gather in SF



Ambassador Stephen Lewis

by Bob Roehr

Angels in America "is as harrowing and numbing an episode of horror that I've ever seen in the cinema. It is a faithful rendering of the way death from AIDS used to be in this country and is no longer," said Ambassador Stephen Lewis. "And that is the way people die in Africa now, at this very moment, day upon day, upon day. How do we get the world to understand?"

The UN special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa delivered the opening address of the 11th retroviral conference Sunday,

February 8, in San Francisco. The world's premier scientific gathering on HIV drew 3,900 researchers for four days of meetings.

Lewis described the "human carnage," the "hallucinatory nightmare," and the "tremendous resilience and courage" that is the pandemic in Africa. He thanked the researchers for being "part of the most significant battle against disease in human history."

He called the World Health Organization's "3x5" plan — to get 3 million people into treatment by the year 2005 — "the single most dramatic development that has happened in years." The availability of treatment will be an incentive for people to learn their status rather than remain ignorant of it, and in learning their serostatus, perhaps modify their behavior and help to contain the epidemic, he noted.

But that assumption may prove to be false, or at least slow to develop. Gavin Churchyard reported on efforts begun in 2002 by the South African mining giant Anglo American to introduce antiretroviral therapy to its workforce. One problem they had not anticipated was apathy; "There was not a rush to get tested and treated," Churchyard said. Stigma continues to play a large role in the reluctance of many Africans to learn their HIV status and be public about it when they do test positive.

Lewis focused much of his talk on money, or rather the lack of it, for organizations such as the WHO and the Global Fund for

AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. "We have all of the will and money in the world to fight the war against terrorism; what happened to the will and the money to fight the war against AIDS?"

He was careful to spread the blame across all of the developed world, and acknowledged that recognition of the problem and leadership toward solving those problems have been lacking in many of the nations hardest hit by the plague.

"Marriage can be dangerous to women's health," Lewis said, pointing to data from UNAIDS showing that a large portion of women in the developing world are infected by men in apparently monogamous marriages and partnerships.

He urged changes in laws to address the power imbalance of marriage in many of these nations, and the development of topical microbicides to allow women to protect themselves from infection when they do not have the power to resist sex.

"Perhaps the most vexing inheritance of the pandemic" is the problem of millions of orphans on the sub-Saharan continent. Lewis hoped that the broader introduction of therapy would help to stem this tide by keeping their parents alive.

But increasing the capacity to treat HIV in Africa is a daunting challenge that requires more than money.

"The background is of poor health systems, poor people, and no good track record of management of chronic disease," said Alex Coutinho, with the AIDS Support Organization in Kampala, Uganda.

He urged a realistic understanding of the challenges ahead. There has been no study to determine how much money any of the countries can reasonably absorb in building up this infrastructure in a short period of time. All of the projections are based upon the number of people who need therapy and not on the ability to deliver it. ▼

Impact of city deficit on health programs remains uncertain

by Zak Szymanski

The San Francisco citywide budget for the fiscal year 2004-05 suffers from a projected shortfall of anywhere from \$157 million to \$310 million, according to Mayor Gavin Newsom, who presented the figures at a public hearing of the Health Commission on Thursday, February 5.

What this means for specific Department of Public Health programs is not yet clear, but, according to DPH Director Dr. Mitchell Katz, cuts should be expected.

"I am not prepared to present to you today our cuts," said Katz at Thursday's hearing. "We need more time to work with the mayor on how to reach our targets with the least pain possible."

Similarly, Newsom emphasized that Thursday's hearing was "not final and by no means exclusive." The current \$160 million figure that has been reported as the city's deficit will likely see another \$100 million in cuts from the state budget, bringing the projected deficit to \$260 million.

That \$260 million deficit assumes that city employees will continue to pay 7.5 percent of their retirement contributions, and that voters will approve a \$15 billion state bond measure in March. If these two factors do not prevail, then the city budget deficit will be even greater.

Twenty percent of the city's general fund goes to DPH, and 20 percent of the projected general fund shortfall is \$52 million. While this does not necessarily mean that \$52 million in cuts should be expected from DPH — Newsom has articulated his commitment to minimizing the impact on health programs — such a deficit does mean that difficult budget decisions will have to be made, according to a packet of information from Katz that was distributed at the meeting.

And budget cuts from DPH are not as simple as cutting costs and increasing revenue, explained Katz, when those same cuts and increased fees are often absorbed by the people they are meant to help.

For example, one way for DPH to raise revenue is to begin charging a parking fee at certain hospitals, but those fees likely will be paid by hospital staff and visitors.

One way to cut spending might be to look at outpatient costs, but

if cutting those services means that more people wind up in the emergency room, "then we haven't saved any money," said Katz.

And one way to limit DPH budget increases is to freeze salaries, but without offering competitive wages, DPH cannot recruit staff, and instead winds up paying overtime to the people whose hours are needed to make up for the staffing shortage.

Additionally, said Katz, there are various "ironies" that have a significant impact on the DPH budget, including the rise in insurance costs for DPH employees; and the voter-approved Proposition C that mandates department-funded audits to ensure wise city spending, at a cost of \$2 million to DPH.

DPH has been careful to try to limit budget cuts in the past, saving \$8 million, for instance, by eliminating the office of managed care. But "once you cut something, it's no longer there to cut. You can't cut it again," said Katz. "So those cuts we've rejected in previous years are likely higher up on the list."

It is still unknown, according to DPH spokeswoman Eileen Shields, when the health department will be prepared to offer its proposed cuts to the public. Katz is meeting with Newsom again this week, said Shields, and it has not yet been announced when the first proposed cuts will be presented to the Health Commission.

Providing a monetary figure to DPH cuts would be akin to a stab in the dark at this point, as Shields explained that ongoing negotiations and discussions as well as uncertainties at the state and federal level would likely determine that figure.

One thing Katz is determined to do, said Shields, is to preserve housing and treatment beds, and to keep HIV/AIDS prevention programs, even if those models must change.

Dana Van Gorder of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation told the *Bay Area Reporter* that his office is currently focused on statewide advocacy around issues like the expected shortfalls around the AIDS Drug Assistance Program and Medi-Cal, both of which could impact the final version of the San Francisco budget. SFAF will review the mayor's budget when it is released in April or May, said Van Gorder, and "see what advocacy is needed around that." ▼

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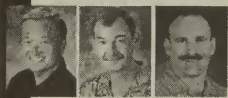
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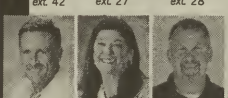
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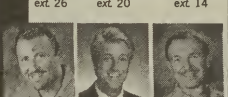
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Gay marriage

◀ page 1

like to do things carelessly."

As for what the clerk will be telling the same-sex couples this afternoon, Alfaro said, "We will tell them we have received the request from the mayor and will try to honor that request."

One indication of how fast things are moving within City Hall on this matter, Assessor Mabel Teng is already preparing her office to begin recording the city's — and state's — first gay marriages. The clerk falls under Teng's purview.

"I am thrilled. I am already setting up our operations and waiting for the first marriage licenses to be recorded," said Teng, who noted her deputy city recorder, Minna Tau, is the first out lesbian recorder in the state. "I am very glad Newsom wants to expand equal protection to domestic partners and gay couples in recognizing their right to marry."

Newsom's letter to Alfaro comes five days after the *Bay Area Reporter* reported that a number of LGBT people had requested the mayor to either ask the clerk to end her office's antigay policy or move her office outside the county line. In his announcement, Newsom said he decided to send the letter to the clerk after reviewing the California Constitution's equal protection clause, which states "a person may not be denied equal protection of the laws."

Newsom, who did not respond to repeated calls for comment, said in a statement, "A little more than a month ago I took the oath of office here at City Hall and swore to uphold California's Constitution, which clearly outlaws all

forms of discrimination. Denying basic rights to members of our community will not be tolerated."

Newsom added "California's Constitution is clear: discrimination is immoral, it is illegal and it is antithetical to our most cherished values — liberty and freedom."

Reaction

Members of the LGBT community praised Newsom for trying to enact policy that would implement his long held support for gay marriage.

"I think it is great our mayor is taking such a strong stance in support of gay and lesbian marriage," said openly gay Supervisor Bevan Duffy, who added he has discussed this issue with the mayor since receiving letters about the matter in December.

Molly McKay, the Northern California executive director of Marriage Equality California, said she is delighted that an "up and coming star of the Democratic Party" is taking a proactive step in the fight for equality in marriage rights.

"The fact he is taking this step and really getting his office actively involved is a good sign and a litmus test of where are going on this issue," said McKay, who will lead today's noon rally on the steps of City Hall to mark Freedom to Marry Day.

Openly gay Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), who will introduce his Marriage License Non-discrimination Act today, applauded Newsom for his decision and said it will help bolster his fight to see his legislation passed.

"The state law that the city and county would be challenging by issuing these marriage licenses is the

same state law, Section 300 of the family code, which my bill would amend," said Leno. "First of all, San Francisco may likely not be the only city in the country taking this step, and it adds yet one more official voice to our argument that denying marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples is not only unfair and discriminatory but unconstitutional, as the Massachusetts high court has ruled."

Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said Newsom's action is "terrific." As for the legal arguments cited by the mayor, Kendell said, "I think it's clear that the aspirations of the California Constitution are not fulfilled when a whole class of people can't protect their relationships or their families."

Kendell predicted mayors throughout the state would follow Newsom's lead and push their clerks to also examine giving marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

"In a place like San Francisco, where our elected officials often have a greater degree of social consciousness, it should not be particularly surprising when a move like this to correct injustice is part of the political vision," said Kendell. "That said, the mayor's intention to grant marriage licenses if possible does require a significant political courage and commitment to his promises that he cared deeply about all folks who lived in the city."

The legal argument Newsom cited in his letter is similar to the one used by former Assessor Doris Ward to grant the same property tax benefits married couples receive to domestic partners and upheld by Teng once she came into office.

"It is exactly the same argu-

ment," said Teng, who noted despite threats to sue the city over the ruling, "there have not been any legal challenges. I continue to rule on those [property tax] cases every day."

Stewart worked with the assessor's office in adopting its ruling and she is "delighted" to be asked to work on this issue. Apart from simply changing the forms, which currently refer to marriage as a union between a man and a woman, Stewart said on Tuesday she was unsure of what steps would need to be taken.

"This office has always taken a very strong view consistent with the city's overall policy of not discriminating against gays and lesbians. If we believe there is grounds under the equal protection clause saying you have to treat gay couples the same as heterosexual couples, we will support what the mayor has suggested," said Stewart.

Once the city does decide on how to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, the matter is sure to land in court. The state also would become embroiled in a legal tangle with gay and lesbian couples seeking the rights and benefits that come with marriage, such as filing joint tax returns.

In the meantime, Kendell advises same-sex couples maintain their domestic partnerships.

"I would strongly caution that none of those couples rescind or revoke their domestic partnership if they have one because, while as a lawyer we would argue they are legally married, that premise will be, I am sure, tested legally and until then the couple should protect themselves under existing state laws already settled and resolved," said Kendell. ▼

ARI director

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Greenspan, who has been serving as ARI's interim director since last July, succeeds Dr. Thomas J. Coates, who founded ARI in 1996. Coates stepped down in order to relocate to Los Angeles with his partner, who had been offered a job at UCLA.

Coates, who is now a professor in the division of infectious diseases at UCLA Medical School, applauded UCSF's decision not only to appoint Greenspan but

also to maintain the institute.

"I am really happy UCSF is continuing its commitment to fighting the AIDS epidemic and they couldn't have picked anyone better than John," said Coates, who considered Greenspan his godfather during his time at UCSF. "In order to survive in academic medicine, you really need someone to help you navigate the highways and byways. On any issue, John was the first person I went to."

Unlike Coates, who is openly gay and HIV-positive, Greenspan is heterosexual and HIV-negative. But like Coates, Greenspan appears comfortable tackling difficult topics and ready to question HIV prevention tools and the scope of AIDS research.

Asked about the debate over gay marriage, Greenspan, who is married, responded that gay marriage is the same as heterosexual marriage and expressed excitement at studying what health benefits could come from legalizing gay marriage.

"Let's hope we get a chance to study it and that enough jurisdictions legalize it and so there are

enough people to study it," he said. "That is the way to go."

Greenspan is founder and current director of three of UCSF's pioneering HIV/AIDS programs — the AIDS Specimen Bank, the Oral AIDS Center, and the California AIDS Research Center. He also holds appointment as a professor of oral biology and pathology.

John Greenspan is a renowned AIDS investigator and an international leader in the field of mucosal diseases. As interim director, he has done a terrific job leading an internal analysis of the future shape and governance of the institute and his long and broad leadership experience will be invaluable as he guides the ARI in its next phase of its work," said Dr. David A. Kessler, UCSF vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, in an announcement of the appointment.

As director of ARI, Greenspan will oversee the coordination and integration of all HIV/AIDS research activities at UCSF. ARI brings together hundreds of scientists and dozens of programs from throughout the university and affiliated labs and institutions. ARI works in close collaboration with affected communities, and is the largest HIV/AIDS research entity in the world outside of the NIH.

"Our research can no longer be divided into discrete categories like basic, clinical, and prevention or domestic versus international. Just as highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) changed prevention, a successful vaccine will require coordination with prevention efforts. Discoveries about HAART made here in San Francisco influence how HAART is rolled out in Africa," said Greenspan. "A cure or new therapies are likely to emerge overseas. My challenge is to lead a borderless ARI as we confront HIV/AIDS

wherever it appears and with every means."

In his new post, Greenspan said he wants to expand efforts to explore the genetic biology of HIV to find its weak points, so researchers can identify new targets for therapy and open the way to new classes of drugs as well as develop immune-based therapies that allow a person's own immune system to control the virus and that could serve as the basis for a vaccine.

He also wants to redefine HIV/AIDS as an issue that demands a gender-based approach, create a new San Francisco model of integrated prevention and care for HIV-positive individuals in a clinical setting and expand ARI's work in developing new inexpensive diagnostic and monitoring tools such as cheap and accurate CD4 and viral load tests and quantitative antibody assays.

Another goal of Greenspan's is to create a multi-campus research unit which would connect researchers from UCSF with their colleagues in Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, and San Diego. He acknowledged, however, that he will have to "go for that when the budget gets better."

Coates said he supports such an idea and believes it "could become the leading engine in finding solutions to the AIDS epidemic. We could really be a formidable force and it would be really wonderful for the university to take this on as a priority and put funding toward it."

Greenspan's research interests include the oral aspects of AIDS and the role of viruses in oral epithelial and salivary gland lesions. His group has been a leader in studies of oral aspects of HIV infection with major contributions to HIV research and care, including the discovery of the lesion hairy leukoplakia, its association with Epstein-Barr virus. ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

A decade of bears

by Cynthia Laird

Bears – those fun, big guys – will descend on San Francisco this weekend as the very popular International Bear Rendezvous marks its 10th anniversary with a party that will likely be bigger than usual. Perhaps the preeminent bear run in the country, nearly 1,000 bears and their admirers are expected to attend the event over the long three-day weekend.

"The biggest difference is certainly in scale," said Bears of San Francisco President Mark Katzenberger. "The first year we sold tickets on the back patio of the Lone Star."

BOSF is the host club of the rendezvous, and will once again utilize the Ramada Hotel at Market and Eighth streets for most of the events, including the sold-out dinner Sunday, February 15 and the contest that follows, for which a limited number of \$25 tickets are still available. Mr. International Bear 2004, and this year's winners of International Daddy Bear, International Grizzly Bear, and In-

ternational Cub will be named following the contest.

Katzenberger said that one of IBR's goals is to raise money for several beneficiaries. "Our attendance is up and we're likely to raise a record amount of money this year," he said. This year's benefiting organizations include the Gay and Lesbian Outreach for Elders program at New Leaf: Services for our Community; the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center; and Scouting for All, a group that works to end the homophobic policies of the Boy Scouts of America.

Since the first IBR 10 years ago, almost \$200,000 has been raised for various charities in the Bay Area and beyond. Last year's event raised \$24,000.

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will bring their outrageous brand of bingo to the Ramada on Saturday night, beginning at 7:30. Registered attendees receive free bingo, the cost is \$10 for others, with proceeds benefiting the IBR charities. Katzenberger also said the public is welcome to attend the auction that takes place at the close of IBR on Monday, February

16 at 10 a.m.

New this year is the meet and greet party in the Ramada ballroom Friday, February 13, starting at 8 p.m. Also new this year is free Internet access to registrants, courtesy of Safesexcity.com. The sex-positive Web resource for gay and bisexual men will provide open, wireless Internet access in the hotel lobby, and also sponsor an Internet cafe.

Additionally, with four different dances scheduled throughout the weekend and numerous other activities, Katzenberger said that more buses have been reserved for Saturday and Sunday to make it easier for visitors to get around.

Bear parties will take place at several venues, including the welcome party tonight (Thursday, February 12) at 9 p.m. at the Lone Star, 1354 Harrison Street, and an informal gathering at the Eagle Tavern, 398 12th Street at 10 p.m. On Friday, Fat Bottom Girls play an all-Queen tribute at the Eagle Tavern before the IBR contestants are introduced at 11 p.m.

For more information on IBR 2004, visit www.bosf.org. ▼

New PAWS director looks to the future

by Zak Szymanski

One thing about nonprofits that offer unique, unduplicated services: they are almost recession-proof, drawing on funds from steady private sources and attracting fierce loyalists when it comes to volunteers and donors.

So when John Lipp, a longtime nonprofit consultant, took the reins as executive director of Pets Are Wonderful Support, he found the organization to be "in great shape," he said, with his job mainly focused on securing the solid infrastructure and trying to improve existing services and events.

PAWS is the San Francisco-based services organization that is dedicated to helping lower-income people with HIV/AIDS and other disabling illnesses keep their companion animals. Its volunteer-based services include pet food delivery; providing dog walking, litter changing, pet sitting, and fostering; and transporting pets to necessary veterinary and groom-

ing appointments.

Lipp, 38, began his term at PAWS on January 1 at an annual salary of \$75,000, replacing longtime Executive Director Erin Farrell, who is taking some time off after building the organization into what it is today.

Lipp previously ran the nonprofit planning group John P. Lipp Consultants which also led to his serving as interim executive director at Positive Resource Center. PRC, which provides benefits counseling and employment services to people with HIV and AIDS, had experienced a financial crisis that led the organization to hire Lipp as well as ask the public for assistance.

The success of the campaign to save PRC was a lesson in nonprofit survival that "executive directors can get into trouble if they isolate themselves. I made a promise never to do that," said Lipp. "If I'm stressed out or need support I'm going to ask for it because I don't have all the answers."

And although acknowledging

the burnout rate for executive directors, Lipp said that the work suits him.

"For some reason, I love it. I think it's one of the better jobs in the world."

Presently PAWS is looking strong, and Lipp plans to keep it that way, he said. The organization operates on a \$700,000 annual budget, serving about 370 clients and 500 pets with 500 volunteers, a 1:1 animal-to-volunteer ratio. It is "a lean machine," said Lipp, employing just five paid staff members "who all act as volunteer coordinators, in a sense."

By nature, PAWS is "very collaborative, and we do our piece of it really well," he said.

PAWS tends to attract a variety of donors and volunteers, many of whom are dedicated to HIV/AIDS causes but most of whom "have a strong interest in animal welfare issues and realize how important animals are to assist human beings," Lipp said.

Lipp himself once served on

page 19 ►



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This lesbian takes the cake

by Eric Ganther

Who: Elizabeth Falkner
What: Chef-owner, Citizen Cake Restaurant
Where: 399 Grove Street at Gough
Contact: (415) 861-2228; www.citizencake.com

This was one of the sweetest interviews I've conducted, and not just because the subject was so agreeable; the first three questions were asked with an exquisite cinnamon roll competing for space in my mouth. What I learned between bites was that this lesbian knows how to craft a tasty pastry. What's more, she knows how to run a successful restaurant in the nation's most sophisticated market in a soft economy. This week, I interviewed Elizabeth Falkner, out lesbian, occasional girljock, and owner of San Francisco's most innovative patisserie-restaurant-bar.

How old are you and how long have you been in business?

I'm about to turn 38. We opened Citizen Cake in October 1997 on 14th Street behind Rainbow Grocery, and then we moved to Grove Street in May 2000.

How did you get started?

I started in 1990 as a part-time worker in a café. I took over as the chef a few months later. Then I moved to Masa's, a very European-style kitchen and one of the best restaurants in San Francisco. Then I worked as pastry chef at Elka with two wonderful women chefs

who were also lesbians. From there I went downtown to Rubicon, where I worked as pastry chef for three years. All along, people kept asking me where they could get a good cake, and I didn't really have any great suggestions, so I decided to open up a patisserie.

Tell us about the name - Citizen Cake

It's a play on the Orson Welles's movie, *Citizen Kane*. At a certain point in my career as a pastry chef, describing the food became boring. To sell it better and make it more enticing, I'd give something an interesting title like "A Chocolate Tart Named Desire" or my signature piece when we opened Citizen Cake: "Rosebud Crème Brûlée." The names are whimsical or ironic plays on film titles or slogans or fads or politics.

What's your best seller?

Definitely the "After Midnight Devil's Food Cake," which is a chocolate cake with a sophisticated mousse (not too sweet) that's Venezuelan milk chocolate and Schaffenberger dark chocolate. It's then glazed with ganache and finished with chocolate shards and gold leaf. It's the French pastry world meeting the American bakery.

Talk to us about carbohydrates - they're not very fashionable right now.

I think it's a trend and I love trends. I'll come up with a dessert

title that makes fun of it. But ultimately, like much in life, it's about self-control. If people rob themselves of reasonable amounts of breads and pastries they miss out on the satisfaction of the aesthetic quality of a well-made dessert. Cinnamon rolls don't need to be the size of plates. That's just pathetic. I feel that as a responsible chef I shouldn't clobber people with butter and sugar and starch in the course of dining. I keep it light and save the treats for dessert.

How do you run a successful restaurant?

To have any successful business you have to have a team that's ready and willing to go - take the direction and

great team here. I always get compliments on them as being friendly, not snooty. I really depend on the core group, who've all been here for a long time, to give me input and ideas. Likewise, I keep them informed of my thoughts about the direction I'd like to see us going.

We'll be opening a second location in the Virgin Megastore to be called Citizen Cupcake. For a long time I was happy with one restaurant, but now I see the need for a coffee shop within big retail that's really fantastic and not merely convenient. We can rock big retail a little bit, and the Virgin people are perfect. It's a good relationship.

What's hard about running a restaurant?

Workmen's compensation, payroll taxes ... Proposition L, which the voters passed last year is a really poorly written piece of legislation that will cost this restaurant and this community a lot this year. [The law increases San Francisco's minimum wage from \$6.75 to \$8.50.] We've always been philanthropic (we've done fundraisers for lots of important community organizations like the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the Human Rights Campaign, the LGBT Community Center, Frameline, Equality California, etc.). But Proposition L makes it harder for restaurants to donate to charities, and hurts more people than it helps. What's the point?

What would you recommend to someone thinking about being a restaurateur?

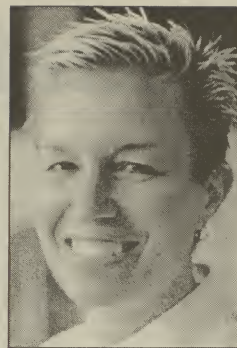
Spend time in a restaurant observing; whether it's chopping onions in the back or as a customer in the ones you really like. Successful restaurants have sociable outgoing owners on the floor who are intense and directive in the back. You have to be able to switch gears between these two. And you have to be on top of what's going out because everyone's a critic. It all has to be as perfect as possible.

If you had a good cook in your family, or you've worked in good restaurants, then you probably already have a basic foundation for cooking. If you didn't have that then you should probably go to culinary school. But even if you go to culinary school you will still have to start at the bottom. And it's easier to do this when you're young. It takes years to get a handle on the vastness of cooking.

Who are your inspirations in baking?

I love to watch Pierre Herme, the pastry chef from Paris. He grew up learning cooking skills early, but unlike most French pastry chefs, he is a little more experimental and has become quite innovative. I'm also following the culinary revolution going on in Spain right now. In San Francisco, I'm a big fan of Zuni and that new restaurant called Cortez.

What about women chefs?



Elizabeth Falkner

We're fortunate that there have been so many great women chefs in the Bay Area. Barbara Tropp at China Moon was a Chinese studies scholar and came back to the U.S. to open a Chinese restaurant in the 1980s. She really was a pioneer. Joyce Goldstein from Square One who now spends a lot of time writing cookbooks and teaching. Mary Cech, who pretty much brought an architectural-style of dessert making to San Francisco when she worked at Cypress Club. And then, of course, there's Judy Rodgers at Zuni, Loretta Keller at Bizou, Alice Waters at Chez Panisse, Annie Somerville at Greens, and ... there are so many more.

In your experience, does being a lesbian bring any special skills to the work you do?

I'm not sure if any skills develop out of being lesbian. Many women in my field, gay or straight, are independent, career focused, courageous, strong, and giving.

However, at one point when I was raising money for the restaurant, I thought it would have been easier to raise money if I were a straight guy, but I realized that a lot of my investors were gay and a lot of my patrons and supporters were gay. Community inter-participation: Maybe today there is a new "old queer" network.

Care to comment on the irony that you can only bake "official" wedding cakes for straight people?

Gay or straight, I absolutely believe in the commerce of wedding cakes! ▼

E-mail Eric Ganther at:
eric@ericganther.com

FEBRUARY

Got Love?

Then Came You Part three of the Got Love? series. What are the challenges and joys of LTR's? We will share our stories and strategies for keeping our relationships thriving. **Tuesday, Feb 17, 7pm @ STOP AIDS Project, 2128 15th St @ Market St**

Intimacy & Communication

Part four of the Got Love? series. Intimacy and communication are the cornerstones of successful loving relationships. Through interactive exercises you will learn ways to deepen the intimacy of your relationships and strengthen your communication skills. **Tuesday, Feb 24, 7pm @ STOP AIDS Project, 2128 15th St @ Market St**

Magnetic Love

Attracted to your opposite? Many of us are doing it with men of a different HIV status. Talk about sex, love and intimacy with other poz and negative guys. Come alone or bring your guy. **Thursday, Feb 26, 7pm @ STOP AIDS Project, 2128 15th St @ Market**



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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Ronald Duncan Ballantyne

August 24, 1960 — January 20, 2004



Ronald Duncan Ballantyne died suddenly in San Francisco, California on January 20, 2004.

Ronald led a full and interesting life having traveled to over 30 countries and as many U.S. states and was fluent in three languages besides English.

Born and educated in Scotland, Ronald's career in marketing took him to Scottish Opera and the Tron Theatre in Glasgow and to Luxembourg and finally San Francisco through the airline

industry. Loved and respected for his loving and generous nature, insightful intelligence, witty sense of humor, and elegant style, Ronald will be missed by his family, friends and former colleagues in Scotland, Europe and the U.S. Ronald will be greatly missed by his mother Agnes and brother Douglas, who live in Scotland, his sister Rae in Calgary, Alberta Canada, and his Scottish nieces and great niece, cousins and aunts and uncles. He was pre-deceased by his father George in 1990. However a Scotsman, Ronald called San Francisco his home, and his friends here held a special place in his heart.

A memorial service celebrating Ronald's life was held at MCC church on January 25. His sister Rae is escorting his ashes to Scotland, and a memorial there is scheduled for February 23.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ronald's name to the church if so desired.

Alexander James Baye



Age 55, a long-time resident of San Francisco, passed away from the complications of double pneumonia, on February 5, 2004. Alexander, affectionately known as "Sandy" to his family and friends,

was born on July 16, 1948, in Carmichael, Pennsylvania. His childhood years were lived on Long Island, New York. Alexander graduated from Syracuse University, class of 1970, with a major in Art History. He was a part-time teacher of history and French at Galileo High School before his illness. He also worked for several years at Wells Fargo Bank. During his earlier years in

San Francisco, Alexander worked in visual merchandising with The Emporium and Brooks Brothers.

He is survived by his mother Jeanette M. Baye of New Port Richey, Florida; his sister Joann Reilly and her husband Daniel T. Reilly of West Palm Beach, Florida; and Katherine Anne Reilly, daughter of Daniel and Joann and goddaughter of Alexander. He will be missed by his family and many devoted, close, personal, friends. Special thanks are in order for Dane and Teresa for their support during and after his final days, and all of the Doctors and Nurses that cared for him. God Speed "Sandy," we love you. Your Buddy "Tomcat" is in good hands.

Memorial contributions may be made in Alex's memory to Project Open Hand of San Francisco. Donations Hotline is 415-447-2419. A memorial liturgy will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at Notre Dame Des Victoires Catholic Church, located at Bush and Stockton Streets.

Nathan Oliver Boykin



Nathan Oliver Boykin (born December 28, 1972) died suddenly January 15, 2004, leaving a void once filled with the buzz and chatter of wide-eyed tales, the ceaseless ringing and chiming of bells and whistles that was his love to those that he knew.

This silence echoes a man part child, a wisecracker part adult, a whirlwind series of contradictions: loyal, kind and generous — wicked, wild and relentless, both touching and challenging those in his crossfire. He will be missed.

So come make some noise and cele-

brate his life with a gathering of friends, music and potluck on Saturday, February 21st at the Eagle Tavern, 398 12th St. from 2 p.m.-7 p.m. Bring yourself and a dish to share (bells and whistles optional). Questions? Call 415-285-5179 box #3.

Robert "Bobby" J. Murillo

Murillo, Robert "Bobby" J. — 46 years of age entered into Heaven on February 4, 2004. Dear son of Robert V. Murillo and Alicia (Sanchez) Murillo (deceased), loving brother of Alex, Lauren, Stephanie and Valerie. He leaves behind his family and friends in Illinois, as well as his adored friends in California and Florida.

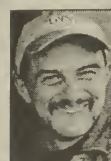
Bobby will be fondly remembered by all who knew him for his culinary expertise, his flawless photographic abilities, his joyful presence, his superb wit, and his genuine big heart.

A Funeral Mass was said on Friday, February 6 at 10:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church in Lombard, Illinois. In lieu of flowers, please donate to your favorite charity.

Per Bobby's wishes, a celebration of his fabulous life will be held in San Francisco this coming summer. For fur-

ther information, please contact Martha Remy at remymartha@msn.com.

Bruce D. Threlkeld



August 24, 1957 — December 11, 2003

Bruce passed away quite suddenly on December 11th. He was known throughout San Francisco for being a bartender at such venues as The End-Up, The Bear, Uncle Bert's Place, and most recently The Transfer Bar. He had been a resident of San Francisco for well over 20 years. Most of his early years were spent growing up in his home state of Georgia. Bruce was known for his unique personality and his humorous bartending skills. He will truly be missed by many of his good friends and his most beloved pets, Peanut, Virginia, and Miss Kitty. There were no services performed and his ashes have been interred in Colma.

Bruce, you did make a very very great impact on all our lives. You will be greatly missed.

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Kerry

◀ page 1

flat out wrong, it is offensive," said Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "That's an appalling position for the leading Democratic candidate to take."

Kendell said that while the LGBT community's number one goal should be to defeat President Bush in November, Kerry needs to be held accountable for his statements.

"Getting rid of [Bush] is the number one priority," Kendell said, "but we are a stable base for Democratic candidates and Kerry has to get on board. I think that respect was lacking in the NPR interview."

Kendell said that if Kerry's remarks were the result of "poor advisers," that's one thing, but she said she feared the NPR comments "are his real feelings."

"He can't risk us sitting home [in November] because he's failed to appreciate our issues," she said.

Kendell added, "If his opposition to a federal marriage amendment is softening, this is a disaster for not only our chances of getting rid of Bush because it will completely suppress the gay and progressive vote, but it is devastating for a real leadership role from the Democrats on this issue."

Kerry's campaign has said that

the senator does not support the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment.

Reached Wednesday morning, Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he's in contact with the Kerry campaign.

"I'm in direct contact with the Kerry campaign and their policy people," Leno said. "I don't believe the NPR interview clearly articulated his full support for same-sex couples."

"He can't risk us sitting home [in November] because he's failed to appreciate our issues."

Leno said that the community should remember that Kerry was one of only 14 senators to vote against the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996, and the only one of those who faced re-election that year.

"John Kerry can beat George Bush," Leno said. "Given that LGBT leaders are not unanimous in their support of same-sex marriage, it's foolish for us to hold Kerry to a higher standard than our own community leaders."

Molly McKay, Northern California executive director of Marriage Equality California, told the *B.A.R.* she was "disappointed" in

Kerry's comments.

"It's disappointing when political leaders, instead of doing what's right, do something for political purposes," she said. "It shows Kerry is out of step with his own state."

McKay acknowledged that Kerry was likely positioning himself to beat Bush in the fall but nevertheless was critical of his stance.

"Unfortunately, this civil rights issue has come up now, and he needs to get on board. He needs to

lead. He may be taking the pragmatic choice, but is he willing to risk his entire reputation on gay and lesbian civil rights on this? If he supports this amendment he's no longer a friend of the gay and lesbian community, and people need to know that.

"Something's got to give. Kerry's last-minute ditching of the gay and lesbian community harkens back to Clinton on 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" McKay added. "We have these people who do many great things for the community, but when it really counts, we get a knife in the back." ▼

cannabis) have records because they've been dealing with federal interference with our state law," Nadel pointed out.

Nadel and Council member Jane Brunner ultimately joined the majority after several amendments supported by advocates were added. Among the changes were an agreement to study the feasibility of allowing patients to consume cannabis-containing baked goods on club premises, and a promise to re-examine the issue in the second half of the year to determine if more dispensaries are needed to accommodate the number of patients.

"Fortunately, patients prevailed on the council to backpedal from some of its most obnoxious

proposals," said Dale Gieringer, California coordinator for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Nevertheless, opponents promised they would introduce a measure on the November ballot to repeal the new regulations.

"I don't think the people of Oakland support hassling people over marijuana," celebrated cannabis grower and former defendant Ed Rosenthal told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "Marijuana is a critical medicine for many people here. These establishments are not a problem for the vast majority of Oakland residents."

The council is scheduled to vote again on the amended measure on February 17. ▼

Oakland pot

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aspect of the clubs is one of their most important functions, especially for people who are new to marijuana," Hilary McQuie of Americans for Safe Access told the *Drug War Chronicle*. "For us, the optimum solution would be that there is some sort of regulation around the clubs and that they be subject to health and safety inspections like any other place serving patients."

Opponents also expressed disagreement with a new rule barring dispensaries from hiring individuals with arrest records. "Many of the people involved with [medical

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Training days

by Jim Provenzano

Lindsay McLean would rather be known for his work as the head trainer with the 49ers, tending to the injuries of football players for 24 years, and through five Super Bowls.

The fact that he was known discreetly to many as gay became an issue during his years with the 49ers. But it became a much bigger issue when he came out this month in an ESPN magazine feature article, and in a local publication, the *Santa Rosa Press-Democrat*.

That publication's 49ers columnist, Matt Maiocco, approached him first to consider a coming out interview. Even the *San Francisco Chronicle's* Joan

Ryan, knew about McLean. Yet he waited until retirement last fall to consider coming out to the press.

The congregation at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, where McLean and his partner George Paiva worship, kept his secret for years.

Now, millions know, and he's a tad uneasy with his newfound fame gained merely for his sexual orientation.

Not that McLean regrets coming out big time at all. "I think it's helped some people," he told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a phone interview from his home in Redwood City. He's already received congratulations from fans, and other trainers around the country.

For every moment of glory on field, there are many more mo-

ments of bone-crushing agony. The job of a professional sports trainer is often unsung, and McLean's notoriety may help that field as well. For while only a few known gay players got as far as the Super Bowl, so too, have gay trainers who aided those fallen warriors.

McLean got his start in training by helping out at high school football games in Nashville, Tennessee. After graduating from Vanderbilt College in 1960, he worked as an assistant trainer at San Jose State, UC Santa Barbara, and Michigan State. Sports medicine was still a small field, and McLean was deeply closeted.

By 1979, a job offer to work for the 49ers led to his coming out more to himself, and meeting Paiva. After a 1982 Christmas party, the couple attended together. McLean's life became a bit of an open secret more maturely handled by administrative staff. If anyone had a problem, they rarely confronted him, knowing they had one of the best trainers around.

"Sports medicine has really changed," McLean said. "When I first started, our team doctors didn't have an orthoscope. A torn meniscus was quite a trauma. Those injuries almost always needed a minimum of three weeks rest. But with an orthoscope you can find a piece of cartilage and snip it off. Sometimes they could be back within a week."

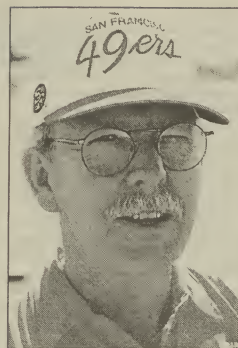
With updates, new practices often came with their share of problems.

"Many players take an injectable anti-inflammatory before a game," said McLean. "It can be habit forming, psychologically. Players got the feeling they couldn't go on the field unless they had it."

Of the president's odd diversion in his recent speech regarding steroids in pro sports, McLean mused, "I know he's a baseball fan, but that certainly is not an appropriate topic for a State of the Union address."

"I think the NFL's done a great job, but baseball has, too. That's another thing that's changed tremendously. There was no testing 25 years ago. Football facilities have testing facilities built right in. The NFL hires somebody like a law enforcement person."

He did notice it in players in previous years. "You could see the steroid rage."



Lindsay McLean

He's done his best to keep players clean. "There's always gonna be a mentality that you do anything legal that you can to get the upper edge. We never had an ephedra problem or anything like that."

But McLean refused to go over the line in providing treatment for desperate players, fearing injuries might ruin their careers. "They'll look around for something else."

McLean doesn't associate the outbursts of antigay rage he occasionally received with players being chemically induced. "I think it's more about homophobia."

What concerns him is why his sexuality became such a problem with men, when he rarely mentioned his private life.

Yet, the confrontations occurred, mostly through the 1990s. One player, frustrated over a knee injury, shouted "you fuckin' faggot!" Another refused treatment, leaving McLean to pass off duties to another trainer. A 350-pound linebacker taunted him with a repeated simulated assault, saying, "I know what you want, bitch." Yet another cut up his team cap.

"I never told anyone at work, but somehow they found out," said McLean. "Socially, with an NFL team, you get to know everybody's business."

And now that those episodes of players calling him names, and physically shoving him a few times have become public record, he believes they may bring awareness. But he prefers to focus on the predominantly amicable years.

"You put it out of your mind. Why dwell on it? I think anyone has work situations where someone said something to you that's unpleasant, but for the most part, day in and day out, I had a great relationship, except with a few players."

One of those players, Garrison Hearst, known for antigay state-

ments made in 2002 ("I don't want no faggots on my team"), actually maintained a surface respect with McLean, in his own way.

"Garrison just wasn't thinking. It was sort of a reflex," said McLean of Hearst's statements.

In the ESPN magazine article, Hearst told writer Chris Bull, "Lindsay's cool, man, very cool. ... His personal habit is his personal habit. It don't matter to me."

The other unnamed players who had confronted McLean with their attacks were eventually dealt with, calmly. "The way to stop that is take them aside and say, 'I'm a good person, and I don't wanna hear that any more.'"

The attitudes of machismo are sometimes as tough as the physicality. McLean's distance as a trainer may have kept even more abuse at bay.

"Football's gonna be a little harder than some," he said of injuries both personal and physical. "A gay player coming out while playing could be dangerous. A player could potentially get his knee twisted in a pileup, even by his own teammates. We have a lot of coaches who don't want to have female athletic trainers, let alone gays. So there's still some educating to do."

What's telling about the sport of football is that despite the homophobic incidents, the 49ers may be the most progressive of NFL teams. Former head coach Steve Mariucci was quoted as being accepting of a gay player, as long as he's a good player.

With a domestic partnership health insurance employee policy, and 49ers owners John and Denise York having worked to maintain a gay-friendly fan base after convincing Hearst to apologize for his remarks, the team sets an example for other NFL franchises. One wonders how much worse any other team work environment must be.

McLean prefers to focus on those positive gestures, like the social event where he brought his partner. For another event, a photo session with staff and their spouses, McLean said that Mariucci told him, "If you wanna bring your partner, that'd be fine."

McLean told him, "The NFL's not ready for that."

Sadly, he may still be right. Despite such overtures, McLean preferred a level of discretion. "I just

next page ►

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Our Man Friday

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veep's endorsement seems to have snuffed out any presidential aspirations that Gore himself might have been harboring for 2008, leaving the Democratic door wide open for **Hillary Rodham Clinton** if the unthinkable (Bush gets re-elected) happens when Democrats meet again in four years. It's the Kennedy

name that still works among Democrats – Gore didn't help Dean; the Clintons couldn't help fellow Arkansan Clark, but a barnstorming Senator **Ted Kennedy** (D-Massachusetts) clearly jump-started what had been a lagging John Kerry campaign, even in states such as Iowa where the hated "Massachusetts liberal" issue was supposed to be harmful.

Which leads to this "Quote of the Week" from an unidentified

top Democratic Party strategist as to why Howard Dean, who had clearly managed to fire up so many in the nation, particularly over the Bush war on Iraq, has been watching his early supporters turn to the seemingly "more electable" Kerry of late: "Those Dean loyalists moved on; they're still mad, but they got practical, and they deeply want to beat George Bush."

And how was your week? ▼

Past Out

◀ page 10

states had enacted legislation against same-sex marriage, the most restrictive of which prohibited not only marriage, but also rights granted through domestic partnerships.

Back in Hawaii, same-sex marriage opponents began a drive to amend the state Constitution to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman. Their efforts succeeded in November 1998, before the Supreme Court could issue its final ruling in the pending case. The court finally declared the *Baehr v. Anderson* lawsuit dead in December 1999.

But less than two weeks later, disappointment turned to celebration when the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that "the State is constitutionally required to extend to same-sex couples the common benefits and protections that flow from marriage under Vermont law." The court left it up to the legislature to decide how to accomplish this mandate.

Vermont Governor Howard Dean signed a law in April 2000 granting same-sex couples all the state benefits of marriage through

a new type of "civil union." Although falling short of legal marriage, the new unions proved popular, drawing same-sex couples to Vermont from throughout the country. Annette Cappy, a town clerk in Brattleboro, opened her office just after midnight on the day the new law went into effect. "This office has been known to stay open for 24 hours on the first day of hunting season," she said. "I figure if we did it for people who want to shoot animals, I can do it for two people in love."

In 2003, LGBT activists were buoyed by a federal Supreme Court ruling that overturned state sodomy laws, as well as by court decisions in two Canadian provinces allowing same-sex marriage. (Canada was not the first to do so, however: the Netherlands extended its marriage laws to include same-sex couples in April 2001.) But the climax came in November when the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that state law restricting marriage to opposite-sex couples was unconstitutional. The justices gave the state legislature 180 days to remedy the discrimination. [Last week, the court reaffirmed its decision, saying that civil unions would not be adequate.]

While many LGBT people hold out hope that the Massachusetts ruling will be the long-awaited ticket to legal equality, queer couples still face a growing conservative backlash, including an effort to amend the U.S. Constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage once and for all. ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@qsyndicate.com.

Suggested reading

Eschridge, William. 1996. *The Case for Same-Sex Marriage: From Sexual Liberty to Civilized Commitment* (Free Press).

Martinac, Paula. 1998. *The Lesbian and Gay Book of Love and Marriage* (Broadway Books).

Sullivan, Andrew (ed.). 1997. *Same-Sex Marriage: Pro and Con. A Reader* (Vintage).

"Petchitecture" – a who's who in San Francisco event that draws celebrities, world renowned architects, design enthusiasts, and animal lovers to the exhibition and sale of extravagant animal abodes – set for April 2. Petchitecture, said Lipp, is so well-known and so well run that it accounts for one-third of the PAWS budget.

Lipp may not be performing crisis intervention this time around, but he's just "as busy as ever," he said, propelling PAWS into the future. One effort he is leading is providing technical assistance to those who want to start PAWS chapters elsewhere; the East Bay PAWS organization just secured its 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and is hosting an event this weekend, said Lipp.

"PAWS is such a great idea, and

is run on such a great model, and there's so much research on how important it is to keep animals, especially when someone is sick," said Lipp. "None of what we do is all that difficult, and we'd like to expand the model to other parts of the country."

Expanding PAWS services in San Francisco is another one of Lipp's goals, as is increasing the educational outreach about the importance of the human-animal bond. A recent \$1 million bequest just came into PAWS from an anonymous donor, which may be used to further these goals.

"We're a strong organization. We've got a great staff and great board and a really dedicated core group of volunteers and donors," said Lipp. "Everything is looking really great." ▼

me over the years."

Still a football fan, McLean enjoyed watching last season's games from home. Despite the sometimes 14- to 16-hour work days, he said, "I'll always have a soft spot in my heart for the place I worked at."

McLean agrees with the proposal that eliminating homophobia in sports stems from antidiscrimination laws at universities, and will grow as the corporations that own sports franchises adopt such rules. If his speaking out now helps in any way, he's fine with that, but is more comfortable to pass the torch.

"Until you have a few really brave people to come out while they're on the job, and stay out, it's gonna be a little hard," he said. "But any college that has a strong climate of protection; those are places where it'll happen." ▼

Read more articles at www.sportscomplex.org.

PAWS

◀ page 15

the board of the Humane Society, and brings to PAWS "the perfect blend of nonprofit management experience, familiarity with the HIV/AIDS community, and a sensitivity to the important role that companion animals play in our lives," said Randy Allgaier, president of the PAWS board of directors. "He's the ideal executive director to lead us into a new phase of providing service to the community."

Under Lipp, PAWS' traditions will continue as usual, with the "Faux Fur Fashion Show" taking place this Sunday, February 15 in conjunction with other organizations (see page 4), and the annual

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

think [Mariucci] knew just like others did, but also knew that I was a good trainer. It was just a nonissue."

But for those who look for role models, or even anyone brave enough to be out, even after leaving athletics, his on-field experiences have the same professionalism as any straight staff member, including those five Super Bowls.

"Usually you had an extra week before the Super Bowl," he recalled. "You had a little time to get people's health together. Guys were playing with pain all through the playoffs. You had people who were playing who would never play in a season game, so they had six months to heal." This pressure, he said, led to the team becoming "a highly motivated group of guys."

When asked about working with such greats as former quar-

terback Joe Montana, McLean puts it simply. "His injuries were no different than a fourth-string quarterback's. An athlete's an athlete. An injury's an injury." There was a difference, of course, when it was Montana's knee.

"The superstar players would get hurt," he recalls, "and 20 media people with microphones wanted a diagnosis. You have to learn to live with that pressure. It's such an inexact science. You're there to go to work. I got to the point where I didn't see the media. I just took care of these guys as if it were Foothill Junior College."

That common sense extends to McLean's life, which includes regular attendance at the Castro MCC. Brought up a Southern Baptist in his home of Nashville, McLean enjoys the non-denominational services and "relaxed celebrations."

"You walk in there, and feel like you're a person, not different," he said. "It was quite a support for

LEGAL SERVICES

VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvs. Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.



Lead Hazard Reduction Citizens Advisory Committee

The Lead Hazard Reduction Citizens Advisory Committee consists of fifteen members appointed by the Board of Supervisors as follows: one representative from the Department of Building Inspection; one representative of painting contractors; one representative from the building trade; one representative involved in housing and community development issues from the Mayor's Office of Housing; one representative from a public interest organization; two representatives of residential owners; two representatives for tenant organizations; one testing expert; one abatement expert; one parent; one representative from the United States Environmental Protection Agency; one representative from CAL/OSHA; and one representative from the San Francisco Housing Authority.

*The three representatives indicated above shall serve as ex officio, non-voting members who shall not be counted in determining the quorum for the Advisory Committee.

Terms: Members shall be appointed for a term of four years; provided, that the 23 members first appointed shall, by lot at the first meeting, classify their terms so that seven shall serve for a term of two years, eight shall serve for a term of three years, and eight shall serve for a term of four years.

Report: The Advisory Committee shall submit a report to the Board of Supervisors within one year of the effective date of Ordinance No. 253-03 and annually thereafter. The report shall at a minimum include recommendations as outlined in Ordinance No. 253-03, Section 1608 of the San Francisco Health Code.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families is pleased to announce the release of a three-year Request for Proposals (RFP) for the annual distribution of approximately \$17 million. Background information on the RFP's funding priorities can be found in the department's Children's Services Allocation Plan and the Children's Needs Assessment, which are available online at www.dcyf.org. The RFP will be released on February 13, 2004 and may be downloaded from the website listed above. All proposals will be due by March 26, 2004. For more information, please contact Ken Bukowski at kbukowski@dcyf.org or Lina Morales at lina@dcyf.org.

THE SAN FRANCISCO CITY CLINIC

City Clinic provides free or low cost, confidential, comprehensive sexually transmitted disease diagnostic and treatment services for anyone 12 years of age or older. The Clinic is located at 356 7th Street, between Folsom and Harrison Streets, and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., and Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The telephone number is (415) 487-5500.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CMC 04-541139

In the Matter of the Application of John Stewart Dolan for Change of Name. The application of John Stewart Dolan for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that John Stewart Dolan has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Zoe Jayde Dolan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 12th day of March at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0273137-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cleaning Services 1338 Alabama Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Rogelio M. Estanislao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/27/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/27/04. **JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0273136-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: R & G Hauling 645 Excelsior Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Roberto Gonzalez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/27/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/27/04. **JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0273096-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Limo Express 474 19th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Alan Chung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/26/04. **JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0272882-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: McGovern Consulting 2410 17th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Christina P. McGovern. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/26/04. **JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0272864-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Aran Trucking 2208 15th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Fiachra McCarron. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01-16-04. **Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0272721-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Frames on 3rd 2500 3rd Street San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Carol Kocinski. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/24/04. **JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0272940-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Don's Barber Shop 2272 Chestnut Street San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual, Daniel Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/23/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/21/04. **JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0272995-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Don's Seven Records 616 Fell Street San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Mike Akin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/22/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/22/04. **JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0273110-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lavish Recordings and T-Art Enterprises 1630 Oakdale Ave. #B San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Wilhemina Lassandra Teart. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/26/04. **JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0272850-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Olson Design & Construction 2648 California Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Steven K. Olson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01-16-04. **JAN. 22, 29, FEB. 5, 12, 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0272864-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Aran Trucking 2208 15th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Fiachra McCarron. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01-16-04. **Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 2004**

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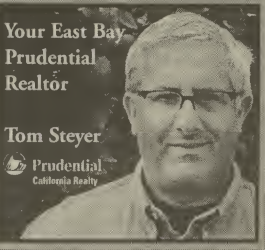
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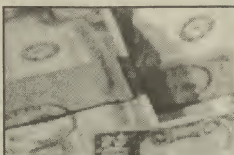
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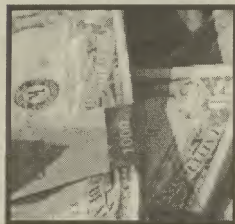
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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-
CISCO FILE NO. CNC 04541158

In the Matter of the Application of Steven
Bruce Modarai for Change of Name. The
application of Steven Bruce Modarai
for change of name, having been filed in
Court, and it appearing from said applica-
tion that Steven Bruce Modarai has filed an
application proposing that his/her name be
changed to Asad'ullah Qorosh' Modarai. Now
therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed,
that all persons interested in said matter
do appear before this Court in Department
218 on the 30 day of March at 9:00am of
said day to show cause why the application
for change of name should not be granted.

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-
CISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-5-159

In the Matter of the Application of Alina
Vakhtinskaya for Change of Name. The
application of Alina Vakhtinskaya for
change of name, having been filed in Court,
and it appearing from said application that
Alina Vakhtinskaya has filed an applica-
tion proposing that his/her name be
changed to Alina Vakutin. Now therefore, it
is hereby ordered and directed, that all per-
sons interested in said matter do appear
before this Court in Department 218 on the
30th day of March at 9:00am of said day
to show cause why the application for
change of name should not be granted.

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273153-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Rainbow Art Pier 39 San Francisco CA
94133. This business is conducted by an in-
dividual, signed Theodore Kang. The regis-
trant(s) commenced to transact business
under the above listed fictitious business
name or names on 03/21/1996. The state-
ment was filed with the City and County of
San Francisco, Ca. on 01/27/04.

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273285-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Precon Services Inc. 1486 31st Ave.
San Francisco CA 94122. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Mark
Gorman. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on
1/15/2004. The statement was filed with the
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
02/02/04.

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273248-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Fillmore Eye Wear 1490 Fillmore St.
San Francisco CA 94115. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Nae
Moon Park. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on
01/30/2004. The statement was filed with
the City and County of San Francisco, Ca.
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FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

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If you do not file your response in
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taken without further warning from
the court.

There are other legal requirements.
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right away. If you do not know an at-
torney, you may call an attorney re-
ferral service or legal aid office (list-
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The name and address of the court is:
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CA 94102. The name, address, and
telephone number of the plaintiff's at-
torney or plaintiff without attorney is:
K.J. Petsas

Law Offices of K.J. Petsas, PC
1475 Huntington Ave., Suite 205
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FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273398-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Heavenly B.B.Q. 798 Arguello Blvd.
San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Thomas
M. Kim. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
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statement was filed with the City and
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FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0273346-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Reenmore Consulting 427 18th Ave. #4 San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Henry P. Arundel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/04/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/04.
FEB. 12,19,26 MAR. 4, 2004

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC 04-541180
In the Matter of the Application of Abraham Fahim Abdel Hamid for Change of Name. The application of Abraham Fahim Abdel Hamid for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Abraham Fahim Abdel Hamid has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Abraham A. Fahim. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of March at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
FEB. 12,19,26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273184-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: David Barnett Design 1370 Noe St. San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Barnett. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/28/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/28/04.
FEB. 12,19,26 MAR. 4, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC 04-541181
In the Matter of the Application of Scott Michael Nelson for Change of Name. The application of Scott Michael Nelson for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Scott Michael Nelson has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Scott Michael Nelson Windels. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 13th day of April at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
FEB. 12,19,26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273368-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Lucky Creation Vegetarian Restaurant L.L.C. 854 Washington St. San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Hin Kwong Mak. California. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/04.
FEB. 12,19,26 MAR. 4, 2004

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STATEMENT FILE A-0273064-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Anthroarts 350 Alabama St. #4 San Francisco Ca 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Sarah E. Murray. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/23/04.
FEB. 5,12,19,26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272704-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: A Beautiful Day 674 Castro St. San Francisco Ca 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jeanine K. Reisbig. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/12/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/12/04.
FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE #231919
The following persons have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Geary Street Bella Pizze 4124 Geary Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business was conducted by general partnership, signed Lap Bo Chu. This statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/12/04.
FEB. 5,12,19,26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273451-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Speed Pro Towing 251 Capp St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Raul Orozpea. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/06/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/06/04.
FEB. 12,19,26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273489-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: San Francisco Handyman Bay Area 870 Shotwell St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Emiliano Gonzalez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/09/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/09/04.
FEB. 12,19,26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273490-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: San Francisco Cleaning Gonzalez 1112 Shotwell St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Oscar Gonzalez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/09/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/09/04.
FEB. 12,19,26 MAR. 4, 2004

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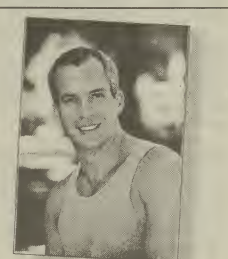
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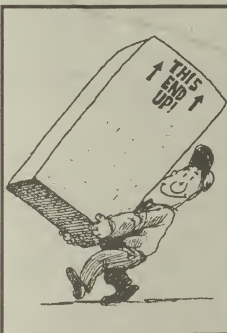
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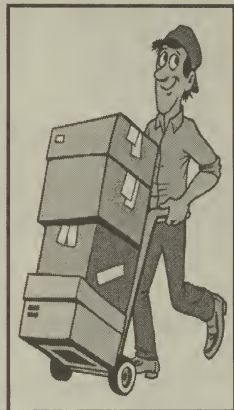


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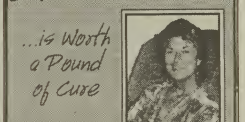
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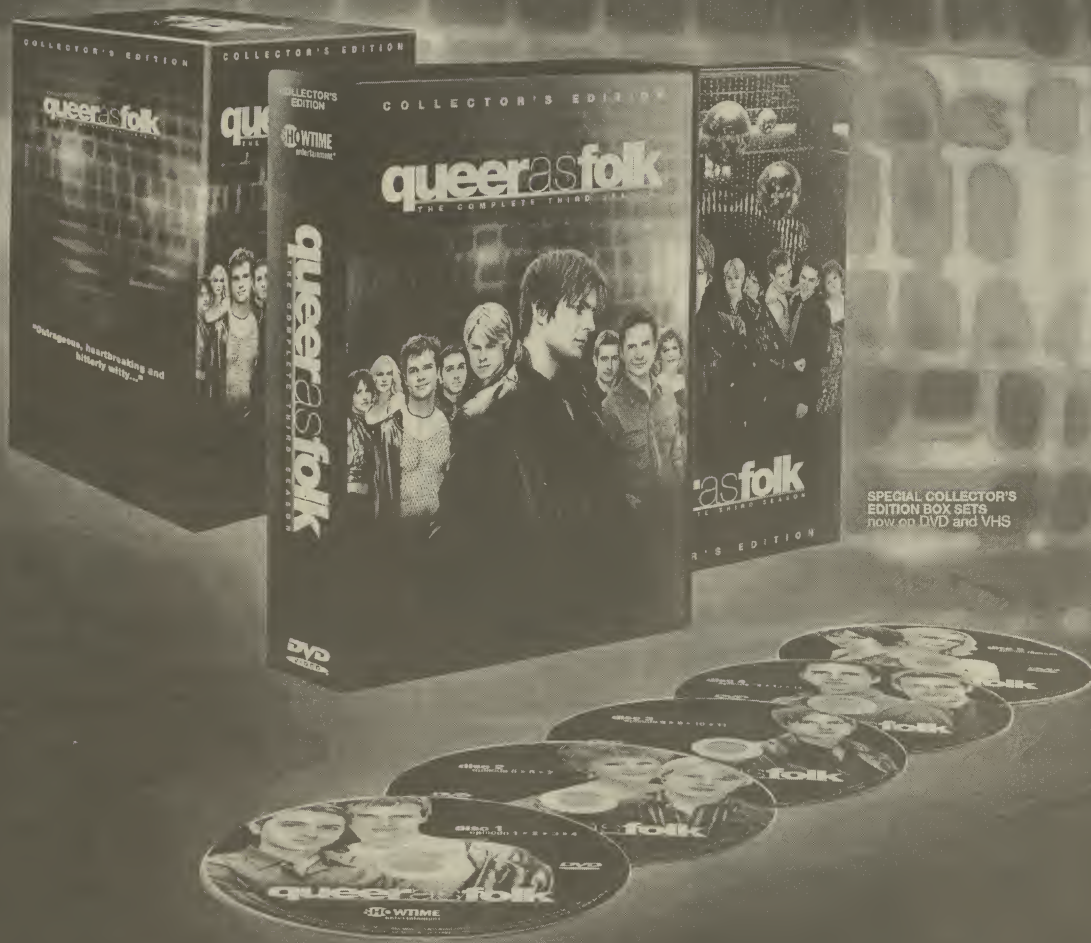
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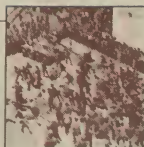
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Why do only white guys bring up race in bi-racial porn? And other questions provoked by 'Fantasies of White & Black 2.' **page 35**

Lessons from history 'Battle of Algiers' shows uprising against French. **page 30**



He regrets nothing Bertolucci revisits his youth in 'The Dreamers.' **page 29**



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 7 • 12 February 2004

'REVERSING VANDALISM' AT SF PUBLIC LIBRARY

TURNING DESTRUCTION TO ART CONSTRUCTION, GAILY

by Kevin Davis



The healing power of the creative impulse to transcend and redeem violence shines through in 217 diverse altered-book artworks on display in the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) Main Branch's *Reversing Vandalism* multi-site exhibition, its largest ever. The panoply of inventive, playful answers to vandalism clearly illustrates the reverence that a cross-section of gay and straight artists from 20 states, France and Japan feels for libraries.

"It has more than fulfilled my expectations," says Hormel Center Program Manager Jim Van Buskirk, now urging the installation's extension past its May closing date. "The overwhelming range of diversity of responses has just overwhelmed me. I couldn't be happier."

Three years ago, Polish immigrant John Perkyns slashed 607 books on GLBT topics, women's sexuality, religion and

page 28 ▶

Much art incorporates the vandal's trademark almond-shaped wound.

VISITING TWO HIGH-CAMP SF EXTRAVAGANZAS

BOAS, BEADS, AND BABYLON

by Adam Sandel

Nothing epitomizes the irreverent spirit of San Francisco more than the high-camp extravaganza *Beach Blanket Babylon*. Steve Silver's outrageously funny show at Club Fugazi is the longest-running musical revue in theatre history, celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Joining this Grande Dame of high camp is a new girl in town: the less ambitious but very flamboyant *Les FAUXLies Fantastique* at Venue 9, a gender-bending, Vegas-style revue dripping with feathers, sequins and rhinestones. While the two shows vary in style and substance, they both scream San Francisco.

A recent trip to *Beach Blanket Babylon* proved that the old girl is still sparkling. The powerhouse cast of 10 wages an all-out comic assault on the senses, with dozens of gags skewering current pop icons and keeping the show fresh.

Since 1995, producer Jo Schuman Silver has carried on the comic legacy of the show's mad-genius creator, her late husband Steve Silver. At 5 a.m. each morning, Silver pores over newspapers and magazines, ready to spin headlines into sight gags. The night Arnold Schwarzenegger announced his candidacy for governor, he was already being lampooned for

it in the show. Janet Jackson's Super Bowl striptease? It's already in.

"It's really a team effort," says Silver, who meets with director Kenny Mazlow, costume designer Jayne Serba, musical director Bill Keck, prop designer Matt James and wigmaster Juan Nunez to brainstorm ways to get new gags in, fast. "The cast is amazing in making it happen. It helps to have 30 years' worth of costumes and wigs in the warehouse."

While the current show skewers everyone from Paris Hilton to the *Queer Eye* guys, Silver knows exactly when a topical gag has run its course: "When the audience stops laughing."

BBB began in 1974 as a nutty hybrid of the beach-party movies of the '60s and MGM musicals of the '30s and '40s. Carmen Miranda inspired the show's legendary huge hats, and in 1978 the big San Francisco hat with its moving cable-car made its debut.

The show's storied history includes runs in Las Vegas and London (before Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip), but its most notorious moment was providing the opening number for the '89 Academy Awards. "Steve didn't have creative con-

page 30 ▶



Beach Blanket Babylon veteran Val Diamond balances San Francisco on her head.

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Who let the dogs out?

Canine affections & cruise lines

by Roberto Friedman

Like a lot of career canines in this city, Out There believes it's important to get out of the home or office and walk your dog every day. But since we don't own a pet, we take ourselves out for long walks in the naked city, up and down and all around it. We're our own pet. So we were ready for the message of British writer **Mark W. Turner's** *Backward Glances*, *Cruising the Queer Streets of New York and London* (Reaktion Books), which is not a how-to guide for streetside pick-up but a considered reflection on the male cruising experience.

Turner wanted to find traces of men cruising men on the modern

street, and found them by sniffing around the curbs and hydrants of literature, including the private notebooks of eternal poet **Walt Whitman**. But to really map the terrain, he also learned to lap at the dogbowl of journalism, since "one of the ways that cruising has been located is through arrests and prosecutions covered by the press."



Out There

Beyond famous T-room arrests like **John Gielgud** in London or **George Michael** in LA, Turner turned to accounts of busts of non-famous men to develop his geography of particular streets and locales that were or are the province of queer male desire.

But he says cruising is not always about sex. "Reciprocal gazes may hold their own pleasures for some, and the dynamics of the gaze may be erotic and stimulating precisely because it does not end in sex." Just as a dog out on a ramble knows how to stop and smell the — erm, roses.

Dog stupid

NY Observer critic **Hilton Als** says a lot of stupid stuff in his putative review of **James McCourt's** gay history collage *Queer Street*, things like, "The lack of human feeling in *Queer Street* might be explained by the absence of women." Now, how retro is that?

Also stupid: "But the books I grew up reading in the '80s — by **Edmund White**, **Dale Peck**, **Dennis Cooper**, etc. — seem less about exploring the world than about shutting out difference — blacks, women, and the like — in order to establish the white queer world as an exclusive empire of the senses." We guess if you only look at the world and all its creations through the wrong end of the identity-politics telescope, you'll forever be disappointed with genius. Etc.

Despite this, Als does succeed in relating an item from McCourt about a remark that macho straight author **Norman Mailer** reportedly once made. We reprint it for you here, and that makes it, what? Four degrees of separation.

"In a dialogue with his gossipy alter ego, 'The Gutter-snipe,' our **Queer Temperament** says: 'Norman Mailer once referred to his infinitely superior contemporary, **Truman Capote**, as a 'bally little guy.' Of course he didn't know — or did he? — that anatomically Capote was just that, freakishly so. 'All potatoes and no meat,' as the nastier boys at the Everard [Baths] used to say about gentlemen of a certain age they affected to disdain in the steamroom.'" Ouch!

Dog gone

Star-in-a-housedress **Harvey Fierstein** is set to leave the hit Broadway musical *Hairspray* after two years of playing **Edna Turnblad** on May 2, *Playbill On-Line* reported. At presstime, no replacement for him had been announced. With Fierstein's departure, few original stars remain in the Broadway show. **Clarke Thorell** and **Matthew Morrison** exited the show (as **Corny** and **Link**, respectively) in January. Comedian **Bruce Vilanch** is on board and raring to take on the role of Edna in the *Hairspray* national tour. Woof!

Dog ends

The Castro Theatre itself will soon be going to the dogs. As part of that *Sing-A-Long Wizard of Oz* coming March 12-25, there will be a one-night-only **Toto** Look-



Toto lives! (Not the band.)

A-Like Contest, hosted by SF/SPCA and PAWS, March 18 at 7 p.m. Expect a cornucopia of canines, judged by SF/SPCA President **Daniel Crain** and SF/SPCA Chief of Staff **Jeff Proulx**, fended by **Jan Wahl** (who knows a thing or two about dogs) and **Connie Champagne**. The poop-scooper spirit of **Harvey Milk** will be there when **Hostess Huestis**, in the rear, scoops up any Totettes. Grand Prize to be furnished by Best in Show. To enter the contest or volunteer for the Oz run: call (415) 863-0611.

FYI, OT has heard from reliable sources that Toto was a real bitch. Yes, literally. She was a Cairn Terrier whose real name was **Terry**. Even though Toto was referred to as a "he" throughout MGM's classic film, Terry was really all-"she." How gay!

VD: an addenda

It's important to remember that **Valentine's Day** was created to sell chocolates, greeting cards and diamond brooches, not

next page ►



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FILM

Creature of the night

'The Legend of Leigh Bowery' at the Roxie

by David Lamble

here's a scene near the beginning of Charles Atlas' oddly moving tribute to Leigh Bowery (February 18-24 at the Roxie Cinema) that explains as much as anything about the fabulously enigmatic young man who died at 33, leaving a perplexing body of deeply personal work that touched the worlds of fashion, dance, club kids and fine art. That scene shows the 16-year-old Bowery watching his parents, Salvation Army workers, at a party. Director Atlas, in a flash, causes Bowery to vanish from the picture.

In real life, Leigh Bowery vanished from his tiny Australian village of Sunshine, on a mission to take the UK by storm. Quickly tiring of his day job at a London Burger King, Bowery decided to make his mark as a creature of the night. He proved brilliant as both a designer of "trash fashion" and an inventor of a scene to be trashy in. With his new friends, fellow club kids with names like Trojan, Bowery started a club in Leicester Square named Taboo, patterned after the parallel universe of the New York club scene, and fueled by the same drugs. Bowery declined to ape Gotham Party Monster Michael Alig, and instead took seriously the Andy Warhol roots of club culture. Becoming a recognized designer of comic-book-like fashion, Bowery jumped into bed with the art world, High and Pop, doing daring designs for the Michael Clark Dance Company as well as concert gear for Boy George.

Ultimately, Bowery was less interested in marketing his designs than re-marketing himself, wearing costumes that looked like Spider-Man reconceived as a float in the Macy's Parade.

The Legend of Leigh Bowery vividly recreates magic moments in his life, mining a treasure trove of Bowery videos (sometimes as



Bowery was a designer of both trash fashion and scenes to be trashy in.

rear projections) at Taboo parties and on the British TV talk-show circuit. Bowery was seldom seen in public unless completely wrapped up beyond recognition in one of his full-body costumes. As the film makes clear, Bowery's art was not that of a female impersonator. Late in his life, when he took to modeling in the buff for painter Lucien Freud, it became clear that Bowery's body itself was his secret work-in-progress.

Atlas has a host of Bowery's friends from the London art and club scenes recall the piece of him they got to know. Only Boy George seems to know how those pieces fit together. George, who got great reviews playing Bowery in the ill-fated Broadway musical *Taboo*, understands how their personas mirrored each other. It's as if Boy George feels that Bowery was a more authentic version of his own pop image, while Bowery's attempts to launch a pop group fell

well short of Culture Club's brief fling at the top of the charts. Bowery shared Boy George's ambivalent relationship with the British public. In one TV clip, the audience roasts him as freaky, and he in effect calls them morons.

Bowery also lived a more Joe Orton-like double life, pursuing male sex partners in T-rooms across the land. A female friend confides he would point at strange-looking blokes in the street and boast, "I've had him."

In his autobiography, Boy George describes Bowery's efforts to keep his health status confidential, saying, "I want to be remembered as a person with ideas, not AIDS." Boy George adds, "He refused a funeral, claiming he was the son of Satan, and ordered his close friends to tell everyone he had gone to live on a pig farm in Bolivia. Devious to the last breath." *The Legend of Leigh Bowery* is a grand film-version of the wake he chose not to throw. ▼



Self-love: Aya de Leon instructs.

Out There

◀ previous page

designed as a day of judgment on your doggy love life. VD alternative: Hip-hop theatre star **Aya de Leon** leads a workshop, *The Beloved Self: A Self-Love Workshop and Mass Marriage Extravaganza* on Feb. 14 at La Peña Cultural Center in Berkeley. www.lape-na.org.

Single and loving it: **Dr. Laura S. Brown**, professor of psychology at Argosy University/Seattle, says, "If you're single and you like it, now's the time to affirm your

choice. People who never marry or partner have close, loving, emotionally intimate relationships and lives worth living. Don't let a couple-driven culture define your choice as something wrong!"

On the other hand, in *Mr. Alexander's Four Steps to Love, The Simple Way to Find Your Dream Partner* (Quirk), under "Accentuating Your Positives," if your tush is one of said personal positives, Mr. A recommends: "Smack your bottom to emphasize a point. Walk into a room backward." Some new strategies for Out There's next walkabout! Memo to self: Get mtg. w/Toto. ▼

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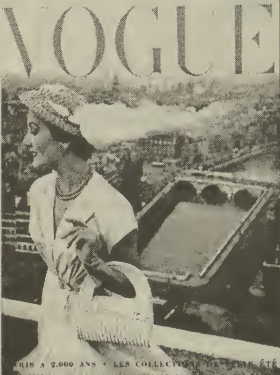
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Splashy & flashy debuts

San Francisco Ballet's Program II bows

by Stephanie von Buchau

Context is everything. Last season, on a San Francisco Ballet premieres program that boasted Julia Adam's inventive *imaginal disc* and Alex Rattmansky's hilarious *Carnaval des Animaux*, Aussie Stanton Welch's *Tu Tu* looked chic, flashy, and as shallow as a backyard wading pool. Last Tuesday, as part of SFB's tedious second subscription program, *Tu Tu* almost looked like a good piece. At least, at the end of a long program, it didn't put us to sleep.

On the other hand, that had less to do with Welch's choreography than it did with the fact that so far this season, SFB's dancers are looking scrumptious and dancing with enough power, freedom and artistry to elevate weak sisters like *Tu Tu* to "interesting." The company's dancing and personalities rescued the other two pieces on the program, too, the revival of Helgi Tomasson's tiresome *Le Quattro Stagioni* (Vivaldi) and the world premiere of Yuri Possokhov's *Study in Motion* (piano pieces by Scriabin, played wonderfully by Michael McGraw).

After four Possokhov pieces here (I'm counting the splashy *Don Quixote*, which he helped stage, because it fits my thesis), it's safe to say he has a showman's canny ability to get the very best out of dancers. Yet, if he has created one enchainement of memorable movement, I've missed it. Without the heartfelt dancing, an abstract piece like *Study in Motion* is basically 30 minutes of filling space.

I can recall almost nothing of individuality in it, except for the beginning of Pascal Molat's solo, in which he stands still and does some very interesting semaphoring with his arms. Molat is incredibly watchable no matter what he is doing, so my fickle companion, who had sworn allegiance to dancer Gonzalo Garcia earlier in the evening, suddenly found herself drooling over the rugged Frenchman with the spiky haircut.

That was pretty much the way it went all evening. Of the other three men in Possokhov's study for four couples, Damian Smith and Peter Brandenhoff are favorites of SFB's hunk-watchers. Eggplant velour pants and muscle tops may not sound appealing, but with these guys bursting out of them, even Benjamin Pierce's costumes had allure. (Not the



SF Ballet's Muriel Maffre in Stanton Welch's *Tu Tu*: looking scrumptious.

women's, however. Nobody should ever dress a female dancer in what looks like underwear and then cover it with a see-thru sarong.) New to the group is another Frenchman, Nicolas Blanc, dark and sporting the same Grecian profile as his partner, Lorena Feijoo. Music pours through his compact body; I can't wait to see him in more individual choreography.

Sugar rush

Probably the worst thing about *Le Quattro Stagioni* is the music. *The Four Seasons* was the original hippie Muzak, and most people forget that it is a series of violin concertos. For that, you need a first-rate baroque violinist. Roy Malan is SFB's honorable concertmaster, particularly good with difficult contemporary scores, but I really don't want to listen to that much out-of-tune fiddling to start an evening of ballet. Add Tomasson's dreary concept — 17th-century bucolic as imagined by a 20th-century choreographer (the piece premiered in 1992) in artificial Italian settings with bland costumes by Santo Loquasto —

and you have the potential for sugar overload.

The first three movements are amiable enough, though Vanessa Zahorian in "Spring" seems to have assumed the company's all-American cheerleader mantle previously worn by Elisabeth Loscavio. Muriel Maffre was the older woman reliving her youth in "Summer," while Sarah Van Patten continues to be a faceless puzzle to me, even partnered by the languidly elegant Vadim Solomakhin in "Autumn." Garcia does his best to look elegiac and noble in "Winter," but he's really an allegro live-wire caught in a self-pitying Romantic part.

In that context, *Tu Tu*, as I said at the beginning, looked better than it is. Maffre does the "Dying Swan" bit without a hint of parody, but plenty of tragically eloquent ports de bras. Julie Diana and Zahorian look glam-plus in Holly Hynes gaudy tutus, while Joan Boada, Ruben Martin and Stephen Legate (how can I put this delicately?) are drop-dead edible, catchable, whatever, in tiny, golden-striped boy shorts. Silly piece, but high on the Yum Meter. ▼

Vandalism

◀ Arts cover

anything titled or authored "Gay" — be it novelist Nancy, poet John, historian Talese, or military bomber Enola — including five slashed copies of Van Buskirk's and Susan Stryker's *Gay by the Bay*.

With the trial completed, and Perkins sentenced to fines and community service, police returned evidence boxes packed with irreparably carved-up books. Instead of following the miscreant's grand scheme by chucking them all, Van Buskirk and Curator Everett Erlandson conceived a destroyed/altered-books art ex-

hibit, promoting it through SFPL's website, GLBT notice boards, art schools, and a prairie-fire of art-community word-of-mouth in August, 2003, with the work due four months later.

The artists employed Band-aids, origami constructions, pages sewn inside chiffon-quilted pockets, clay angels floating heavenward on paper wings, photocollage and more. A lacerated cover is sutured together; pages from a film biography are burned onto leaf-shaped pottery shards. Many incorporate the vandal's trademark almond-shaped wound, compulsively carved with two swipes of his razor-blade. Critiquing the offense, the artworks vividly express the library-patron

community's empathy, vibrancy and resilience. These book artists radically renounce destruction through found objects and images, while championing a civic institution.

Caught pink-handed

"We've been able to meet the goal of allowing all the artists to show for themselves what libraries have meant to them," says Head Curator Catherine King. The exhibition is "unique in that it's initiated by the library. We commissioned the art and provided the raw materials."

"We took back the power, able to go from feeling helpless and angry to getting something we

next page ▶

Risqué business

Bertolucci's 'The Dreamers'

by Robert Julian

The clueless protagonists of Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Dreamers* float around in a marijuana-fueled haze of political correctness, using Hollywood movie-speak to spark social and sexual intercourse. It's 1968, and Parisian students are as strident as they are restless. They listen to Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, and Jim Morrison; they protest censorship and the Vietnam War; they live vicariously through motion pictures; and they experiment with sex. In short, they do precisely what I was doing at the time. At the end of *The Dreamers*, when Piaf warbles "I regret nothing," it's easy to imagine she sings not only for Bertolucci and novelist/screenwriter Gilbert Adair, but an entire generation of boomer miscreants.

The Dreamers stars Michael Pitt, the unluckiest leading man ever to emerge from *Dawson's Creek*, as Matthew, an American college student studying film in Paris for the summer. At a student protest over the removal of the director of the Cinematheque Francaise, Matthew meets fellow cinephiles Isabelle (Eva Green) and Theo (Louis Garrel). When their parents leave town for a month, this brother/sister team invites Matthew to move out of his small hotel and live with them in their parents' flat. As the three students settle into domestic cohabitation, a rather twisted ménage emerges which causes each of them to question his life and choices.

Siblings Isabelle and Theo have a psychosexual bond between them that most therapists would describe as "unnatural." When shy Matthew begins his affair with Isabelle, the sexual dynamics of the household shift. And although the three students can discuss film *ad nauseam* while proclaiming their love for each other, one topic remains off limits: homosexuality. Yet the unconsummated attraction between Matthew and Theo helps maintain the heightened sexual tension of the film. At one point, Theo seems ready to take the plunge, but Matthew remains awkwardly

aloof in a manner completely consistent with his character and the times.

Earthly desire

Bernardo Bertolucci is not a good filmmaker but a great one. In *The Dreamers*, he explores the hermetically sealed world of the siblings' flat, using the turbulent student protests as a backdrop. This technique of creating a small insular world encapsulated in a larger context is one Bertolucci has used in the past in films like *Last Tango in Paris*, *The Last Emperor* and *Besieged*. The three students walk around the flat, spouting lines from Hollywood movies and challenging each other to identify the film. *The Dreamers* contains clips from movies like *Queen Christina*, *Breathless*, *Blonde Venus*, and *Freaks*, inserted in the fashion employed by Michael Sarne in '70's *Myra Breckenridge*. But where Sarne used old film clips as an ironic commentary on the action, Bertolucci employs them in an illustrative homage. Cinematographer Fabio Cianchetti provides a warm romantic glow for the proceedings, reflecting the garden of earthly desire that unfolds within the Parisian flat.

Screenwriter Adair adapts his own novel for the screen with increased emphasis on the characters' relationship and less reliance on their milieu. This gives the film a certain timelessness. The period is defined primarily by the outrageous optimism of protagonists who believe they can change the world by protesting the status quo. In this respect, the children of the late '60s were truly different from the children of the late '90s. The earlier generation turned away from materialism, seeking to change the world. Their present-day peers seem to have made an opposite choice: to accept the sorry state of the status quo while trying to accumulate as much cash as they can with the least amount of effort.

Recently, some controversy emerged from Bertolucci's refusal to eliminate sexual scenes for the picture's American release in order to receive an R rating. It's unlikely *The Dreamers*, in its cur-

ual-exploitation resource center. Amanda Coslor, who coordinates SAGE's art therapy program, crafted a woman's face-mask out of casting bandages, the eye-socket a blood-red ball of yarn; and a cone of pages at the mouth, megaphone-style, showing a woman in touch with her outrage.

Wendy W. Chan's "Human Being," a book in flight, springs elevated off a cloud of torn pages, as if strengthened by its injury, a proverbial phoenix.

Mixed-media sculptor Dakota Phoenix melted a plastic Virgin Mary on a clothes-iron's base, then added broken votive candles, wax puddles and soot, all mounted on *Sex and the Church*. "It's a nice way of closing the circle," says the Hospitality House Community Arts Program volunteer, finding new ways to express himself artistically due to fading eyesight, "an opportunity to create healing energy."

Dancer Keith Hennessy soldered a message to the vandal on the cover of theologian Norman Pittenger's *Making Sexuality*

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(Top to bottom:) Louis Garrel, Eva Green and Michael Pitt: twisted.

rent form, will raise any eyebrows in San Francisco. After all, what are a few penises between friends? The sexuality as presented is natural, integral to the story, and completely believable in context. Unfortunately, the Motion Picture Association of America is still held captive by the Puritan revolution that gave birth to our nation. They should all be forced to churn their own butter and write

with quill pens until they realize times have changed. In the meantime, American audiences have the opportunity to see a superb filmmaker working at the top of his form. *The Dreamers* is an evocative homage to an adolescence that once was and, in one form or another, will always be. ▼

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Vandalism

◀ previous page

can out of it," says Librarian Nancy Silverrod, who, adrenaline racing, ended security and staff's months-long search by catching the vandal stashing a bright pink volume in his bag's bottom-shelf hidden compartment.

"I certainly didn't want my response to be flippant," says Joe Boxer textile designer Steven Elliott, whose work "Cell Mate" responds to a book encouraging safe sex for prisoners by adding latex. Elliott, who spent recesses doing needlepoint under the guidance of his volunteer-librarian mom, says Forster and Melville "were pivotal in defining my artistic practices and sensibility." In his spare time, he perforates thrift-store '70s gay self-help guides, lining them with red felt and foil, to create books "alive with little gaping mouths, assholes or wounds."

Healing the body served as a metaphor for pieces created by clients of the SAGE Project, a sex-

Learning from the past

Restored 'Battle of Algiers' at the Castro

by Tavo Amador

Western power, convinced its cause is just, imposes its will on an Islamic nation. That nation insists on self-determination and fights the outsiders. Its tactics are condemned as "terrorism," and the media reports "innocent" deaths from explosives, assassinations, and other forms of guerrilla warfare. This isn't Palestine or Iraq in 2004. It's Algeria in 1954, after 120 years of French colonial rule. *The Battle of Algiers* ('65) is Italian director Gillo Pontecorvo's documentary-like interpretation of that 1954-57 rebellion. In a beautifully restored print, it plays the Castro Theatre February 13-26.

Although Pontecorvo is sympathetic to the Algerians, he doesn't demonize the French. Both sides use horrifying means, justifying them because of their ends. The movie opens with a scene of an Algerian man being tortured by French soldiers. After he reveals where rebel leaders are hiding, the soldiers offer him a cigarette and congratulate him for having held out so long. It's a

scary moment, depersonalizing inhumane treatment.

With the exception of Jean Martin, who plays French commander Colonel Mathieu, all the other performers are non-professionals — in some cases, actual rebels. The film begins in 1957, with Mathieu and his soldiers surrounding the hideout of the last rebel leader, Ali La Pointe (Brahim Haggiag), warning that if he and his companions do not surrender, they will be blown up. La Pointe then flashes back to 1954, when the rebellion began.

The French were reeling from their defeat at Dien Bien Phu, which ended their rule over Indochina (today, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia). As Socialist cabinet minister Francois Mitterand made clear, the government regarded Algeria as an integral part of France; therefore, its independence would be akin to dismembering the nation.

Born naturals

Pontecorvo's cinematography brings an immediacy to the action. It all appears spontaneous, especially the remarkable crowd scenes, which were, in fact, care-

fully staged. Perhaps because the Algerian rebels are played by locals, the performances are extraordinarily natural. All Algerians seem engaged in the struggle. One suspenseful sequence involves three Algerian women who make themselves appear French: they cut their hair, and dress in Western clothes. As a result, they easily walk past checkpoints, each carrying a time bomb that she will leave at a specific locale in the European quarter — at an Air France terminal, a coffee shop, a place where teenagers dance.

As Ali La Pointe, Haggiag is a frightening mix of idealist, patriot, and terrorist. He was an illiterate peasant discovered by Pontecorvo in the Algiers market, but proved a natural actor. Martin, a stage star who had been blacklisted in France for his opposition to the war, is a perfect foil for Haggiag. The other performers are equally good, one memorable face after another. The film is two hours long, but seems much shorter. Not a single foot of actual newsreels was used, yet it seems like a true documentary. Pon-



Algiers' spontaneous-looking crowd scenes were, in fact, carefully staged.

tecorto and Ennio Morricone collaborated on the remarkable music.

The French won the Battle of Algiers but lost the war. In 1958, Charles de Gaulle returned to power in France and began a series of reforms, aimed at addressing the concerns of the Algerians without giving them their freedom. This proved unacceptable, and they again rebelled, achieving independence in 1962. France learned that without the support of the local population, an occupying power cannot impose its will over the long term, unless it resorts to annihilation. That painful lesson is relevant today, even if it is

not universally understood.

The Battle of Algiers was banned in France, and the French delegation walked out when the movie won the Grand Prize at the Cannes Film Festival. Through the efforts of the late director Louis Malle, the picture was finally shown in France in 1971. In Hollywood, it received Oscar nominations for Best Foreign Film, Best Director, and Best Story and Screenplay. It is timely and timeless. ▼

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Boas & heads

◀ Arts cover

trol, they had too many people in it, and it was 12 minutes long," remembers Silver.

"Sitting in the audience, I had tears in my eyes, and I said to him, 'This is brilliant.' He said, 'It's a piece of shit.'" The ill-fated number drew the ire of critics and of Walt Disney Studios, which objected to its depiction of Snow White. "All of the Oscar books list it as the worst production number in the history of the Oscars, and Steve was always very proud of that!"

Also heading for the show-biz record books is *BBB* veteran Val Diamond, who has been balancing San Francisco on her head for 25 years. Silver has high praise for the singer/comedienne: "Every night is like opening night with Val. She's so good that all of the cast members work their tails off to keep up to her high standards."

Not in Kansas

Cast newcomer Matt Alber never expected to be shaking his tail (dressed as a French poodle) in a show like *BBB*. After five years with the classical *cappella* group



Les FAUXLies Fantastique is a tribute to Las Vegas showgirl spectacles.

Chanticleer, the Kansas-born Alber had been working as a country singer when a friend convinced him to audition for the show.

"I sang a song from *Little Shop of Horrors*, and they asked me to sing it like Arnold Schwarzenegger, then like Richard Simmons," he says. "I'd spent so many years doing serious music in a tuxedo that it felt great to make people laugh."

"The biggest challenge is building up the endurance and stamina to do eight shows a week. I've lost 15 pounds since I started. Once you've learned the show, you have to learn the backstage part, which is very organized and fast. The crew is throwing open doors, curtains and setting props. If you're in the wrong place, you'll get knocked over."

Alber gets to wear a PC monitor on his head as Bill Gates and ride a tricycle as Ashton Kutcher, but his favorite character is big-wigged Bill Clinton. "He's a total sleazeball lounge-lizard, and I love singing in that style."

Les girls

Les FAUXLies Fantastique is a tongue-in-cheek tribute to the showgirl spectacles that flourished when Sinatra's Rat Pack ruled Vegas. While plans for its permanent home are being finalized, the show plays Venue 9 through March. The creative mastermind behind FAUXLies is director-choreographer James Du Beq, who also designed the show's ultra-fabulous costumes and struts his stuff as one of the cho-

rus girls.

Du Beq is a Bay Area native whose 18-year dancing career includes stints in Vegas, Reno, Great America, Disneyland, Carnival Cruises and a national tour as Adult Simba in *The Lion King*. While appearing last year in an Oakland production of *La Cage Aux Folles*, Du Beq met producers Jim Burris and Mike Saugar.

"We came up with the idea of a gender-bending version of a Vegas-style show," says Du Beq. "We narrowed it down to specific themes: Arabian Nights, Parisian Can-Can, Latin, Hollywood, a red-light-district, and a comedic ballroom number."

Du Beq choreographed the numbers, then designed the costumes around them. He designed 165 costumes, headdresses and accessories in two months, and 20 people worked to build them in 8 weeks. "It's the fastest I've ever done," he says.

But creating the feathered, sequined costumes was easy compared to the task of finding dancers to wear them. "Casting was very challenging." It took 16 auditions to find the nine male dancers, six of whom perform as women.

"We were halfway through rehearsals and about to schedule our 17th audition when the producers asked if I'd fill in. Well, I did know all of the numbers," he says.

Although they auditioned some traditional drag queens, the show requires acting dancers who can realistically suggest showgirls.

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Hear him roar!

'The Lion King' settles in at the Orpheum

by Richard Dodds

Spontaneous bursts of applause arrive with regularity in *The Lion King*. Even after all the buildup for the Broadway hit, now in SF a full six years after its New York debut, the theatrical wonders created by director Julie Taymor really do astonish. But when the story's climactic mo-

ment arrived on opening night at the Orpheum, when applause would show the story itself has gripped the audience, it came and went without much fuss.

Taymor's theatrical imagination does a lot to boost the script, but the story's emotional tugs are too often paint-by-number, and a weak performance in one of the key roles adds to the problem. You could almost do the show without

the dialogue, and just have a montage of the songs and dances and costumes. Something like an *African Fantasia*.

The story of a young lion prince, his regal father, and his scheming uncle is told as if by storytellers using costumes and props created from materials used in African arts and artifacts — enhanced with \$12 million or so of Disney money. The people playing animals never hide the fact that they are people playing animals. We have not only the wonder of each costume creation, but also can receive a full range of actors' facial and body language.

Before *The Lion King*, Taymor was a widely respected theatrical innovator in the relatively small world where her work was known. So established now is the connection between Taymor and *The Lion King* that the initial surprise of her association with Disney is largely forgotten. It was as if Balarachine had been hired to restage *Beach Blanket Babylon*. But both Taymor and Disney have benefited spectacularly from the association, and *The Lion King* is in a whole other league from Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* and *Aida*.

The Lion King will be with us in SF for quite awhile, at least through September and well beyond if business warrants. Since the production doesn't have to pick up and move to another city every few weeks, it has most of the flourishes of the Broadway original. It should also make this a desirable gig for performers, so it's surprising that the most important role has not been cast with a top-notch actor.

As the grown Simba, a lion prince exiled from his pride, Brandon Victor Dixon doesn't quite have the chops to draw us



Joan Marcus

Brandon Victor Dixon plays adult Simba, lion prince exiled from his pride.

into his story, at least not via his perfunctory treatment of dialogue. Rufus Bonds Jr.'s Mufasa, Simba's father and long-reigning lion king, is friendly but without gravitas.

As young Simba, 12-year-old Alexander V. Bass (who alternates with Zayed Kane) was a marvel of energy and personality in the first-night cast. Another strong performance, with a voice invoking John Lithgow's imperious *Third Rock* alien, comes from Derek Smith as the evil and rather fey lion Scar.

Thandazile A. Soni makes a good connection with wise old Rafiki, while other featured players are competent, to the extent necessary, to suggest the original characterizations from the screen. Yet the ensemble, in song, dance, and animal-making, is pretty much terrific from start to finish.

next page ►

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FILM

Creature feature

Scary: 'The Lost Skeleton of Cadavra'

by David Lambie

When is a spoof not a spoof? The question arises with writer/director Larry Blamire's nearly pitch-perfect take on those Ed Wood-like "B" movies, *The Lost Skeleton of Cadavra*. Some spoofs like Leslie Nielsen's hilariously bumbling Lt. Frank Drebin in the *Naked Gun* series allow us to both enjoy a heightened state of unreality and condescend to parts of life we have a love/hate relationship with. *Skeleton* pokes fun at a world that only existed in Saturday-morning kids' matinees, or in the dreams of truly awful amateur filmmakers. The movie has a cast of good actors pretending to be bad actors. The results are not unlike what you might get from a good improvisational comedy troupe.

Skeleton opens with a perfectly coifed couple driving the '50s trophy car, the T-Bird, through the woods. Dr. Paul Armstrong (Blamire himself) and his Barbie-like wife Betty (Fay Masterson, stealing the film with a perky Betty Crocker homemaker impersonation that threatens to turn into a nymphomaniac reality) talk with the gee-whiz delight of kids on a first date. Armstrong manages to use the word science about 12 times in every sentence. Betty's adoring appreciation of her man hints that this daffy couple's first language was oral sex.

The film's barely disguised sexual/gender-role subtexts run riot when the Armstrongs use their cabin in the woods to host another couple, whom we know to be space aliens Lattis (Susan McConnell) and Krobar (Andrew Parks) masquerading as very clueless humans. They, in turn, are joined for dinner by the nefarious Dr. Roger Fleming (Brian Howe), accompanied by the Beatnik-ap-



Skeleton pokes fun at the world of Saturday-morning kids' matinees.

pearing Animala (Jennifer Blaire, like Masterson, is deft at suggesting '50s vamps). Animala, whom Fleming has conjured into human form by summoning the spirits of four forest creatures, sends the whole nutty proceedings straight into orbit.

Having blown its comedy wad at the dinner table, *Skeleton* wraps up its nonsensical science-fiction plot as painlessly as possible. While perhaps overstaying their welcome by about 10 minutes, *Skeleton*'s creators manage to keep us staring up at those big, wide, black-and-white images as if we

were expecting an aftermovie-door prize. *The Lost Skeleton of Cadavra* is a moviehouse-only guilty pleasure. Its virtues will shrink-wrap down to the bottom of the DVD ratings.

On the same program is a true collector's item: legendary animator Ub Iwerks' 1937 color cartoon *Skeleton Frolic*. A funny romp in the graveyard, *Skeleton Frolic* makes you yearn for the days when the 7-minute format gave small ideas a tight leash. ▽

Opens Friday.

The Lion King

◀ previous page

The Elton John-Tim Rice score from the film, including the pop hits "Circle of Life" and "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," has been augmented by a variety of songwriters who have not added any pop-hit potentialities. But Soweto

native Lebo M.'s arrangements and choral direction bring a gloss of African authenticity to the proceedings.

The Lion King will have a hard time in its later life, after the Broadway run and first-class tours are over and the show becomes available to regional and community theaters. Without Taymor's vision and Disney to bankroll it,

The Lion King wouldn't make much of a roar. Now is the time to experience this piece of theatrical history. ▽

The Lion King will run at least through Sept. 5 at the Orpheum Theatre. Tickets are \$26-\$82. Call 512-7770 or go to bestofbroadway-sf.com.

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Leather season is here!

Powerhouse, Daddy's draw crowds

by Mister Marcus

The leather season is well under way this weekend. From Philadelphia to Chicago to San Francisco, leather mavens will witness competitions for at least three new sashes, and leather people in Sacramento will be honored with a "Human Buffet."

In Philadelphia, Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather will be chosen on Saturday night, and only hours apart in Chicago, Mr. Cell Block Leather will be chosen. Earlier in the day, the annual Pantheon of Leather Award winners will be announced at the Leather Archives & Museum. Alan Selby will celebrate his 75th birthday on Thursday night, February 12, at the California Culinary Academy Grill. Mr. SF Leather Troy Anicete will appear at the Chicago Eagle to autograph photos and will also present a greeting from California Assemblyman Mark Leno at the Awards ceremony.

The Inter-Club Fund of San Francisco will present the Motorcycle Awards program on Saturday night, and porn actor Eric Evans will appear at the SF Powerhouse in a "Heart On" party for Valentine's Day. Former Empress Chablis of San Francisco celebrates her 50th birthday



The Divine Donna Sachet entertained at the "Blame Canada" benefit on Saturday, February 7 at Daddy's. The show was presented by Mr SF Leather Julian and (above) Toronto Leatherman Remi Collette, Donna Sachet, and IML 1979 David Kloss.

with a bash at Diva's on Post & Polk Streets beginning at 2100.

The Avatar Club in Los Angeles will celebrate their 21st anniversary on Sunday, February 15 at Cha Cha Cha on Santa Monica Blvd.

All in all, it sounds like a busy weekend, and I hope you are resting up for it all.



Leather

Round 4: SoMa Bare Chests

Another record crowd turned out for the 4th



In the fifth heat of the Mr. Los Angeles Leather feeder contests, Wil Wesley, right, won the right to compete for that title in March. Joining him in the spotlight is runner-up Mike Burroughs.

round of the Bare Chest Calendar Contest at the Powerhouse last Thursday, February 5. The throng turned out to see five men — Nick Aitken, Tim Brandon, John Caldera, Don Navarro and Joe Pessa — compete for a spot on the calendar.

Judges Troy Anicete, Glennon Sutter, Remi Collette, Tyrone Smith and Didier Carbagnolle admit it wasn't easy choosing the winner, but in the end, Nick Aitken and Don Navarro got enough points to continue in the competition.

There will be no contest this Thursday, but Round 5 will be on Thursday, February 19. Men with impressive physiques should consider entering.

Successful collaboration

It was body to body — and I mean close-up! — at Daddy's Bar last Saturday, February 7 as Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn and Toronto Leather Man Remi Collette pulled out all the stops to raise money for PAWS and Project Open Hand. There were great raffle prizes and worthy auction items, and Snatch and Donna Sachet had the place rocking throughout. Leather and court system personalities were on hand and this party really rocked.

When it was all totaled up, some \$3,450 was raised for the two beneficiaries. Bravo and thanks to Julian and Remi. These

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, February 12

A \$40 donation will get you into the 75th birthday celebration of Alan Selby at the California Culinary Academy Grill tonight at 1830 for cocktails and dinner at 1930. It's a benefit of course. Call (415) 351-1555.

Weekend, February 13-16

Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather contest in Philly; Mr. Cell Block Leather in Chicago; Pantheon of Leather Awards in Chicago.

International Bear Rendezvous and International Mr. Bear contest in San Francisco. Motorcycle Awards in San Francisco, "Human Buffet" in Sacramento; Avatar 21st Anniversary in Los Angeles; Empress Chablis celebrates her 50th and if you survive this weekend, you're a real trooper!!

Wednesday, February 18

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison tonight. Unadulterated Undies will be flaunted. For info: 777-HEAD.

Thursday, February 19

Round 5 of the SOMA Bare Chest Calendar contests for the 2005 Calendar. Action at 2130.

Judges. Fun. Charity.

Friday, February 20

Exiles of SF present "The Art of Cutting" by "Marilyn" at the Women's Bldg. Doors open 1930, program at 2000. You know the rules and fees.

Leather & Uniform Night at Renegades in San Jose when the new group "The Brotherhood" makes its debut. Strict dress code will be enforced.

Saturday, February 21

Sixth of 9 feeder contests tonight when Mr. Long Beach leather will take place. At my deadline, no venue was announced.

Weekend, February 26-29

Snatch and Michael step aside for a new emperor and empress on Saturday night.

Mr. and Ms. South Plains Leather contest in Dallas and International Slave & Master contests;

Week of February 28-March 7

Leather Pride Week in San Diego with Mr. San Diego Leather being chosen on Saturday night, March 6. The IML 2004 roster grows, and grows and grows.

PORN

In living color

by John F. Karr

The 2004 GayVN Awards, the porn world's Oscars, are coming up. *Fantasies of White & Black 2* has been nominated in the category of Best Ethnic-Themed Video. Of the other four honored titles, I disliked the Spanish-flavored *Sins of the Father*, and am unlikely to see *Freaky Thugz*; the gangsta quotient of its title displeases. I liked *FoW&B2*, with its four scenes each pairing a white and black man. You'll enjoy watching it. But it has too many careless flaws to win an award.

These relatively minor infelicities include the lack of identification of the performers; you can only piece together who's who by watching a *Behind the Scenes* bonus segment. Numerous switches from color to black-and-white may underscore the theme, but are less arty than jarring. There's some clumsy lighting, and occasional infelicitous bumps in the editing. A dungeon scene begins with a sweeping view of the rest of the basement's storage area, taking in an invalid's portapotty and crutches. They're real mood-setters. Or how about otherwise excellent music that switches to another piece right in the middle of an orgasm — that's a mood-sustainer. Most amazing, some doofus has supplied chalk-white condoms for several of the black men.

Turns a couple of really beautiful cocks into waxwork. Credit director Peter Goesinya with effectively pairing up some attractive performers in nice settings, but ya gotta ask, Where's the craft?

A little of it shows in the director's slo-mo time manipulations, which make a deep-throating seem all the deeper. But his encouragement of the sex is spotty. It's solidly performed, but can become perfunctory when the fuck rolls around. The guys seem to like each other. So why does only one scene, the last, percolate over into passion?

"Disco Lust" pairs Park Wiley (great bone-structure, great bone) with the cosmopolitan Victor Rios. He's more Brazilian black than American, if you know what I mean. The big smiles the men share during their preliminary cruise are so much better than the typical hard stares. The guys look great bathed in the disco's red lights, and make out nicely.

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

are your leather titleholders at work. Yes, it's not all about sashes and ego, it's about community service — and aren't you glad?

Chicago plans

As many of you are aware, dur-

Boas & beads

◀ page 30

"We have a really great cast," says Du Beq. "None of them had done drag before."

Amid the splashy numbers are vocal solos; and for anyone who appreciates star quality, singer



Husky JC Carter meets furry Carlo Cox for a sensational encounter.

"Black Leather Cock" is a pretty forceful leather fantasy. Tom Moore, a shaved-headed, otherwise blond and fervent bottom, is thrown in a sling by the aptly named Big Bruce, a beefy, clean-shaven dude whose fat, uncut cock is in proportion to his big body. Big B delivers a big, thrusting fuck, heightened by slo-mo. Slutty Tom's black chaps accentuate the luminous moon-white of his shaven crotch and pearly cock, circled by black rubber cockring.

Karnal Knowledge

And here's a fetish I don't get: he wears latex gloves. The visual is good, especially when Tom's in the sling with spread legs exposing a hairless maw, and his shiny rubber fingers probe the pink depths. But it's like putting a condom on your tongue before kissing.

Pickle relish

A locker-room segment features the fat, cut tube of Solomon, impressively sat upon by fleshy Marine Dakota Philips. Now that's a Big Gulp. Then we reach the sex-club playroom finale, where furry Carlo Cox meets husky JC Carter for a sensational encounter. Bathed in blue light, they go at it with much relish. Hungry kissing; sloppy, drooling cocksucking; and a great, lusty fuck — the first time in the movie

a black man has bottomed. Handsome and nasty JC's swell, with a prime piece of meat. He's an energetic bottom for the solidly muscled Cox to slam into.

Now. When JC begs to suck Carlo's cock, he doesn't qualify it as a white one. Nor does he particularize, when pleading for penetration, "Fuck my black ass." Yet every single white performer unfailingly uses the adjectival qualifier. "Nice black cock," Dakota whispers to Solomon. Just what other color cock does he expect a black man to have? "I want your black cock," Tom specifies of Big Bruce, as if Big B might have another one at home, perhaps a different color for each day of the week. Makes me wonder why only white guys bring up color. And only with blacks, at that. No white guy I've ever made out with was specific enough to want my big white cock.

Similarly, why does the GayVN categorize *Fantasies of White & Black 2* as an ethnic video? Just because there's black men in it? They're thankfully not stereotypically portrayed. Except for being called out by their white partners, there's nothing to differentiate the men at all. This seems less ethnic than ecumenical, in the word's universal meaning. The movie's casting is heterogeneous, or, more precisely, heterochromatic. And tasty. ▼

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ing IML weekend in Chicago, there are scores of public and private parties, but it looks like San Francisco's big bash that weekend will be one not to be missed. As always, there is NO admittance fee and always includes food and booze.

Many forces are at work to produce this one and the pledges from SF community businesses

are generous, so it should be a winner. Hope you get one of the invitations. It will be a night to remember.

Oh there's more — much more. So stay tuned for future events and for news from columnists around the world, you should regularly surf to www.Laather-Page.com. And hey, it's a free web site! ▼

Beach Blanket Babylon at Club Fugazi, 678 Green St. Tickets (\$25-\$70): (415) 421-4222, www.beachblanketbabylon.com

Le FAUXlies Fantastique, through March 28 at Venue 9, 252 9th St. Tickets (\$20): (415) 248-1942, www.AaaahZ.com

Pamela Serrano is worth the price of admission. The diminutive young diva has charm to burn, and she powers out songs from a sultry "Fever" to pop ballads like a seasoned pro.

From the bountiful *Babylon* to the feathered *FAUXlies*, irreverent camp is alive and flourishing in San Francisco. ▼

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Photo © David Morgan

OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Grammy glitz

It's a sign I'm getting old but I loved the 46th Grammy Awards show. It pished me off Janet Jackson wasn't part of it — curses on CBS for caving into (and helping to foment) reactionary Puritanism! But the Recording Academy delivered spectacle aplenty. The show's visuals fully complemented the rock-star orgasmic fantasies on stage, and were entirely worthy of a generation raised on the art and light shows of raves and Burning Man.

The whole production was completely crass, of course, but the crassness was part of the queer-eyed fabulosity of it all, looked at in a Vegas-casino gambling-addicted sort of way.

There were Miss Timberlake (as Jim Provenzano so aptly calls her), Prince and Beyoncé. Ellen Degeneres (um, I love her, but couldn't we have had a queer musician up there presenting, someone Grammy-worthy like Melissa Etheridge, whose *Breathe* is completely refreshing and would have been way more entertaining than god help us Céline Dion).

The show was strangely un-political. Except for Best Record winner Coldplay (Brits) expressing a hope for John Kerry to be the next US prez, the only overt politics came in a tepid appeal by the Recording Academy President Neil Portnow for the US government to spend less time searching for missing WMDs and more for missing funds for arts education. He then touted the new recording industry website, www.whatstheindustry.com, a place to get lectured about illegal file sharing.

While many costumes and makeup jobs — especially Beyoncé's wondrous glittering eyebrows — appeared to have been done by skilled drag queens and metrosexuals, for some reason taste went completely to hell in the ghastly puke-green "Indian" pow-wow outfits worn by OutKast in the closing number. What Hollywood dustbin did they drag those from?

We got cleavage aplenty from the gals, with studio execs doubtless holding their breaths and crotchies as Christina Aguilera approached the 5-second melt-down. Diamonds were Beyoncé's best friend, and that diamond strap across Alicia Keys's torso was a stunner as she paid tribute to Luther Vandross. Patti LaBelle looked super too, but her famous wild hair was tame compared to funk master George Clinton's gigantic multilevel, multicolored Rastafarian do. Justin baby looked conservative in his suits, especially when receiving his award and thanking his mom. But the boy deserves props as a musician; he really does know how to sing, play piano and perform.

The hottest man in the hottest band of the night (IMHO) was Jack White of The White Stripes (reverently introduced by Beck) who with Meg White turned out a super psychedelic rock-mania number with Jack going wild on guitar, his long black locks parted in the middle and bouncing around hypnotically to the hysteria. Jack's long shapely legs were caressed by tight pants, one leg blue, one leg red, with a prominent bulge visible and seemingly growing. Mama mia! ▼



Get a bear-ful of images at the Mark I. Chester Studio. See Saturday

Fri

Scott Wells & Dancers @ 848 Community Space

Scott Wells & Dancers present "Zen — If you don't mind" in which Choreographer Wells and his fearless flyers serve up highly physical/athletic movement flavored with humorous nuances. Featuring "at 848," with Wells and acrobat Gitla Silvaner; "Your Move" with Wells and Jessilto Bie of STEAMROLLER; and "Trio A#" in which two dancers entangle both physically and emotionally as Wells plays electric guitar. \$15. 8pm. Runs Feb. 13-14 & 19-22 at 848 Divisadero St. Tix/info: 931-8648; www.848.com

'Women and Spirituality' @ Mission Cultural Center

Opening Reception: The Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts celebrates 16 years of their annual "Sólo Mujeres" exhibition showcasing Latina women and their artwork. This year's exhibition, "Women and Spirituality", commemorates and honors the women artists in our community who, through art making, assemble fragments of themselves to increase knowledge and meaning. \$5 reception. 7-10pm. Second Floor Gallery, MCCLA, 2868 Mission St. (btwn 24th & 25th, Mission District). "Sólo Mujeres" will be on display through Friday, March 19. Gallery hours are Tue-Sat., 10am-5pm. General Admission is \$3. Info: 821-1155; missionculturalcenter.org

August Wilson's 'King Hedley II' @ Lorraine Hansberry Theatre

The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre presents the Northern California Premiere of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson's *King Hedley II*, directed by Stanley E. Williams. *King Hedley II* is the eighth installment of Wilson's decade-by-decade chronicling of the lives of African Americans in the 20th Century. Set in 1985 in Pittsburgh's Hill District, the drama explores the trials and tribulations of Hedley, a modern-day Othello, in his relationship with his wife and family, and the triumphs and frustrations of an entire community languishing in the despair of Reaganomics. Featuring Bay acclaimed Area actors L. Peter Callender in the title role

Hedley and Rhodessa Jones as Ruby, with Charles Brankyn as Stool Pigeon, James Tyrone Wallace, II as Elmore, and Tonia Jackson as Tonya. \$25-\$30 Thu-Fri, \$27-\$32 Sat & Sun. 8pm (2pm Sun). 620 Sutter St. (at Mason, in Union Square Theatre District). Tix/info: 474-8800; www.ticketweb.com; www.lhstf.org

'Frame Work' @ Off-Market Theater C.A.F.E. (Combined Art Form Entertainment) Presents Tilted Frame's "Frame Work", their newest multimedia theater experience. Each night, February 13-21, a complete new play is constructed live on stage through collaboration between actors and audience. The run includes a special Valentine's "sexed-up" show with romance and treats on February 14th. Featuring Diana Brown, Jonathan Caplan, Christopher DeJong, Sean Garrett, Becky Haycox and Heather O'Brien; ingenious live musician Steve Kahn; and a savvy technical director, Matthew Quinn. The show includes innovative use of digital video, projectors, computers, and Internet. Jonathan Luskin and Dylan Russell direct. \$12-\$15 sliding (non-Valentine's Day). Valentine's Day pricing: Couples 2-for-1 (\$2 for \$15.00); singles half price (\$7.50 each). Dates: February 13-21. Time: 8pm Fri-Sat, Off-Market Theater, 965 Mission St. (at 5th). Tix/info: 896-6477.

'Sweet Tooth' @ ATA Gallery

"Sweet Tooth" film night presents sex hot, short queer erotic films: "Sorry Brenda" by Samara Halperin, a 90210 parody; "Phineas Slipped" by Oakie Treadwell (hot boys); "Impact Zone" by Kade Kuhn and Sophie Constantinou (soft porn); "Toothbrush Tango" by Dara Sklar (erotic hygienic fun); "Talk Dirty To Me" by SIR Video's Shar Red-nour; "Dear Doctors" by Elias E Mbessakwini (porn with a twist). All proceeds, outside of artist payments, go to the "Another Day" film fund. A Skanetstar production. \$7 (NOTAFLOP). Two screenings: 7:30 & 10pm. Artist Television Access, 992 Valencia @ 22nd. Info: 415-206-9392.

Venice Baroque Orchestra @ Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

Cal Performances in conjunction with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura presents the Venice Baroque Orchestra, led by Baroque scholar and harpsichordist Andrea Mar-

con, performing Handel's opera *Siroe*. This rarely performed 1728 opera is the tale of the king of Persia's struggle with destiny. 8pm. Also On Feb. 14. Info: 510-642-9988; www.calperis.berkeley.edu

Tribal & Textile Arts @ Fort Mason Caskey & Lees presents The Tribal & Textile Arts Show featuring African and Oceanic sculpture & masks; Central & South American pottery & folk art; Mexican paintings & ceramics; Spanish colonial art; sculpture & weapons from New Guinea; Middle Eastern jewelry & textiles and much more. \$12. 11am-7pm. Also Feb. 14, 11am-7pm and Feb. 15 11am-5pm. Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center. Info: 310-455-2886; www.caskeylees.com

'Sound Rewound' @ The LAB

Join celebrated composer/musician Beth Custer to mark the release of The LAB's 20th anniversary compilation CD produced as part of Custer's Meet The Composer residency. Featuring Toy-chestra, John Bischoff, Barbara Golden Cheryl Leonard, Katt Sammon, Bob Davis, Guillermo Galindo and Kathy Kennedy. \$10-\$25 sliding (those paying \$20 or more receive a CD). 8pm. Another program with a different line-up happens on Wednesday, Feb. 18. The LAB, 2948 16th St. (at Capp). Info: 864-8855; www.the-lab.org

Sat

'One Night Stand' @ Hotel Cosmo

ARTworkSF presents their 7th annual "One Night Stand," a celebration of the human body and an exploration of sexuality through nude, erotic and fetish art, poetry, music and film. A benefit for San Francisco Sex Information (SFSI.org). Offering 60 selected original works on exhibit & for sale. \$10 6-9pm. Hotel Cosmo, 761 Post St. (at Jones). Info: 673-3080; www.artworksf.com

'Popping the Cherry' @ Actors Theatre of SF

Celebrate Valentine's Day with a special benefit performance of *Popping the Cherry*, a new play by Writer-in-Residence Karen Macklin. Set against the backdrop of an economically declining New York City in 2001, *Popping the Cherry* is a smart urban drama about sur-



Sarah Engleman and Niki Yapo play in *Popping the Cherry* at the Actors Theatre of SF. See Saturday.

vival and the hard love of sisterhood. After Margo's mother is diagnosed with cancer, her estranged runaway sister Lucy shows up at her Manhattan apartment to wreak havoc and threaten her protected yuppie existence. Partial proceeds go to The Women's Building, now celebrating its 25th anniversary. \$20. 533 Sutter St. (btwn Powell & Mason). Tix/info: 296-9179; www.actorstheatresf.org

Int'l Bear Artwork @ Mark I. Chester Studio

Photographer Mark I. Chester will be doing a digital pix special during International Bear Rendezvous (IBR) at his studio at 1299 Folsom St. Free digital portrait of anyone with an IBR badge. Special low-priced portraits for everyone else. Drop in. No appt. necessary. Bear photographs on display by John Rand, Mark I. Chester and Bill Bowers and drawing by Paul Tompkins. Info: 621-6294; mchester.best.vwh.net

Writers With Drinks' @ Make-Out Room

"Writers With Drinks" promise mind-shaking fun for \$3 (or \$5 if you're feeling generous) and they won't even mention what day it is. You'll get to hear "erotic romance" from Pam Rosenthal, who also writes "comic SM" as Molly Weatherfield. And see the world's greatest African-American comedy troupe, Oul Be Negroes, in action. *Girlcock* publisher Roxie Rosen and Anti-Bride Guide writer Stephanie Rosenbaum will read together and Stephanie will hand out recipes. Tim'm T. West (DeepDickollective) will read from his new poetry book, *Red Dirt Revival*. And other magazine publisher Charlie Anders will read wacky genre-bending fiction. \$3-\$5 sliding. 7-9:30pm. The Make Out Room, 3225 22nd St. (btwn Mission & Valencia). Info: www.writerswithdrinks.com

GAPA Valentine Cooking Demo @ MCC-SF

The Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) will host a special Asian and Pacific Islander cooking demonstration to celebrate Valentine's Day. Local chefs Jocen Villalonga and Gary Chen will provide a step-by-step guide to making a 3-course dinner, SF style. Dishes to be prepared include Asian vegetable stuffed chicken, white bean soup, and lemon meringue tart. "After my easy-to-understand instructions, says Chef Chen, "I expect everyone to be able to create a romantic dinner for two later that same night." \$20 suggested donation. 3-7pm. Open to all. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. Info: www.gapa.org

'Aphrodisiac' @ SF Boys & Girls Club

The Lavender Youth Recreation & Information Center (LYRIC) and Overcoming Homophobia Meeting for Youth (OHMY) are proud to present "Aphrodisiac," a Valentine's Day Dance and Queer Youth Safe Space. This is a clean and sober event promoting community building and youth-based entertainment. For LGBTQ and allied youth 23 and under. Transgender youth are admitted if 25 and under. Enjoy free food, live DJs, and youth performances. Come celebrate after Conference activities. 8pm-12am. SF Boys and Girls Club, 450 Guerrero (btwn 16th & 17th). Info: Rob

Everett, 415-703-6150 ext. 20, rob@lyric.org

'Overcoming Homophobia' @ Horace Mann Middle School

The GSA Network and LYRIC present the "8th Annual Overcoming Homophobia Meeting for Youth." What is it? Workshops, food, entertainment, and after party for LGBTQ youth and their allies! Where is it? At Horace Mann Middle School, 3351 23rd St. 9-5pm Question? Contact Denny or Luke at LYRIC (415) 703-6150 x28 or denny@lyric.org OR Contact Andy or Saifa at GSA network (415) 552-4229 or ohmy@gsanetwork.org

Queers 4 Kucinich 'Sweetheart Dance'

Come party with your sweetheart for Dennis Kucinich, the Democratic Presidential candidate who supports gay marriage and equal rights for all. Featuring DJs, kissing booths, surprise celebrity guests and a burlesque show at 11:30pm. Brought to you by Queers 4 Kucinich. 9pm-4am. 1751 Mission St.

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Lavender Seniors, a group for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgressors over the age of 55, will hold their monthly pollack at noon at San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Lavender Seniors are also seeking volunteers of all ages to work with socially isolated seniors. Info/rides from BART: 510-667-9655.

'A Black Valentine's Day' @ EXIT Cafe

San Francisco Jazz Vocalist Eleanor England and the Eddy Sambuaga All Stars present their 3rd annual "A Black Valentine's Day", a jazz show featuring "only tunes where someone is betrayed, slighted, jilted, or - in a perfect world - shot by their lover (er, EX-lover). With Eddy Sambuaga on keys, Jon Wagner on drums and Nate Prasse on bass. \$13. 8pm. Exit Theatre Cafe, 156 Eddy (1 block off of Powell). Advance tickets available through Tix Bay Area. Info: www.eleanorengland.com

'Fauxgirls!' @ Marlena's

Victoria Secret and Alexandria host "Fauxgirls!", a night of glamour and camp, featuring the talents of Mini, Davida, Daffney Deluxe, Nikki Starr, Anjelica Devarox and special guests. Never a cover. 10pm. 488 Hayes St. (at Octavia). Info: 864-6672; www.sf-drag.com

'Reno G/L Film Fest' @ Reno Hilton

Cinemareo and SPECTRUM Northern Nevada present "The Reno Gay & Lesbian Film Festival" at the Reno Hilton, (at the foot of the Sierra Nevada, just five minutes from the Reno Tahoe International Airport — so take your private jet!). Featuring the Reno premiere of seven award-winning films: Yossi & Jagger (11am), Paragraph 175 and The Ten Rules: A Lesbian Survival Guide (12:30pm); You'll Get Over It (2:30pm); A Family Affair (4:30pm); The Trip (6:30pm) and Big Eden (8:30pm). \$7 each (\$30 festival pass). Tix on sale at door starting at 10am. All screenings

in the Sierra Room on the Mezzanine Level of the Reno Hilton.
Info: www.cinemareno.org

Sun 15

'I Exist'

@ Jon Sims Center for the Arts

EyeBite Productions, JSCinema and the Jon Sims Center for the Arts present the screening and VHS release of *I Exist: Voices from the Lesbian & Gay Middle Eastern Community in the United States*, winner of the Best Documentary Feature Award at NewFest 2003. The 15th Anniversary New York Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. Produced/directed by Dr. Peter Barbosa (Unlearning Homophobia Series) and Garrett Lenoir, the film reveals how family ties, valued above all else in the Middle Eastern culture, can be stronger than the cultural messages of hate and fear underlying homophobia. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOP). 6pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & South Van Ness) Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

Cecilia Bartoli

@ Zellerbach Hall

Cal Performances presents renowned mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli, one of the very brightest stars in the opera firmament, who made her West Coast debut at Cal Performances in 1991. Bartoli is enjoying a host of international honors due to her back-to-back Grammy-winning recordings of newly discovered operatic works by Vivaldi and Gluck. \$50, \$75, \$150 & \$250. 3pm. U.C. Berkeley campus, Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley. Tix/info: 510-642-9988; www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

'SuperTrash'

@ The Powerhouse

DJ Bus Station John and the filthy freaks of his weekly club "Trash" celebrate Prez Day Weekend in style with the 1st annual "Abraham Lincoln Memorial Wet Jockstrap Contest." \$100 cash prize; jox available. Featuring a 5-hour retro-homo super-set of '70s & '80s gay bar & bathhouse classics & curiosities, including Hi-NRG, Eurodisco, sleaze, electrofunk, disco rarities & more. \$5. 9pm-2am. Free b4 9. 1347 Folsom (btwn 9th & 10th, SoMa). Info: 552-8689.

Mon 16

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoors lovers for a Garin/Dry Creek Hike. This pair of parks combines green meadows on open ridges with great views and partly forested creek-side trails. Moderate 11-mile hike with a 1,800-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:45am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com



Ascension, by Malik Seneferu, part of "The Art Of Living Black 2004" at Sargent Johnson Gallery. See Thursday.



Matriarch Lillian Bourgeois (Frances McCain) receives a smooch from daughters Marie (Jeri Lynn Cohen) and Claudine (Anne Darragh) in *Okra* at Brava. See Wednesday

Tue 17

'Balanchine on Screen' @ SFPALM

The SF Performing Arts Library & Museum (SFPALM), in tandem with its new exhibition *George Balanchine: Ballet Master* (January 23-June 12), inaugurates its "Balanchine on Screen Series" with filmmaker Anne Bell's *Dancing for Mr. B* (Seahorse Films), in which six of Balanchine's most renowned ballerinas — Mary Ellen Moylan, Maria Tallchief, Melissa Hayden, Allegra Kent, Merrill Ashley, and Darci Kistler — discuss their work with the master. Rare archival footage. Coming up on Feb. 24: Belle's Suzanne Farrell's *Elusive Muse*. \$8. 7pm. Veterans Bldg., 401 Van Ness Ave., 4th floor. Info: www.sfpalm.org

'Reversing Vandalism' @ Main Library

Special program: Friends of the SF Public Library present "How Communities Can Transform Hate into Healing," part of the new exhibition "Reversing Vandalism," destroyed books transformed into art. Free. 6:30pm. Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove). Info: 557-4277; www.sfppl.org

'Bruno Munari: Design As Art' @ Istituto Italiano di Cultura

Opening: The Istituto Italiano di Cultura presents an exhibition of sculptures, objects, posters and xerographs by Bruno Munari (1907-98) from the Edizioni Corraini collection in Italy. Acclaimed as artist, writer, poet, designer, architect, graphic artist, educator and philosopher, when Munari died at age 91, he had given new impulses to Italy's cultural life for some seven decades. Isotta Poggi introduces the exhibit and talks about Munari's work. Free. 6:30pm. 425 Washington St. Info: 788-7142; www.sfiic.org

Landscapes of Li Huayi @ Asian Art Museum

Just opened: "The Monumental Landscapes of Li Huayi," the Asian Art Museum's special exhibition featuring 34 large-scale paintings by Li Huayi, an artist born and raised in China, currently residing in SF. On first view, his works could be mistaken for traditional Chinese paintings such as those from the Northern Song dynasty (960-1126). On closer inspection, they reveal the technical innovations and personal expression brought to bear by Li Huayi. \$10 adults; \$7 seniors; \$6 youth. 10am-5pm Tue-Sun. Open till 9pm Thursdays. (\$5 admission after 5pm). 200 Larkin St. Info: 581-3500; www.asianart.org

Wed 18

'OKRA' @ Brava Theater Center

World premiere: *Brava!* for Women in the Arts presents *OKRA*, a dark comedy written by Bay Area favorite Anne Galjour, directed by David Dower (founder of Z Space Studio). Set in the French-speaking corner of Louisiana, *OKRA* is a rich gumbo of Cajun and Creole cultures simmering with resentments, disappointments and legends. For Lillian Bourgeois, the matriarch, this is a matter of pride and importance. Cajuns have a strong relationship to the old world, the France of the 17th century. The arrival of the French cousin Henri challenges the status quo. This is just life's latest blow for Lillian, who already struggles with two daughters who seem to hate her. Featuring Anna Darragh, Jeri Lynn Cohen, Frances McCain, Lonnie Ford, and Ron Campbell. \$28 Fri & Sat; \$26 Thu & Sun; \$24 Wed (\$4 discounts seniors/students/disabled). 8pm (3pm Sun). Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th St. (at York). Tix/info: 647-2822; www.brava.org

'Smack Dab' @ Magnet

"Smack Dab," a monthly open mic hosted by Kirk Read and Larry-Bob Roberts. Bring 5 min. of words, music, comedy or miscellany, or just come watch and cheer. Featured performers: Patrick Califia, essayist, poet, and storyteller, a kinky old bear who was not born male so he got to go through a second puberty at age 45. His vampire novel, *Mortal Companion*, is due any day now from Suspect Thoughts Press, and Alyson Publications will release *Hard Men*, a short story collection, later this year. Plus: Ray Ferrer, a comedian who performs in drag as Cuban spitfire Coco Lopez, and is writing his one-woman show, "Ay, Coco!" Free. Signup at 7:30; show at 8pm. Every Third Wednesday. Magnet, 4122 18th St. (near Castro). Info: Kirk Read at kirkread@earthlink.net

Thu 19

'Vita & Virginia'

@ Theatre Rhinoceros
Preview: The Rhino presents the Bay Area premiere of *Vita & Virginia*

by Eileen Atkins, directed by Gemma Whelan. In the passion and genius of the letters between Virginia Woolf and her lover Vita Sackville-West, two revolutionary artists draw a startling connection between unconventional love and the creative inspiration. Their passionate exploration of love, life and literature, documented in letters, is fashioned for the stage in a tender, tragic dialogue. With Carolyn Cox as Virginia Woolf and Jennifer Grimes as Vita Sackville-West. \$15-\$25 (pay-as-you-can previews Feb. 19 & 20). 8pm (7pm Sun., plus 2pm Feb 29 & March 7). The Rhino, 2926 16th St. Tix/info: 861-5079; www.the rhino.org

Gay Matinee @ The Center

Screening: *Dangerous Living: Coming Out in the Developing World* documenting the struggle of LGBT people worldwide for basic human rights. Filmed in Honduras, Samoa, India, Namibia, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam. Directed by John Scagliotti, creator of *In the Life*, and narrated by Janeane Garofalo. Despite massive cultural oppression, human rights atrocities, imprisonment, torture, rape, and even the death penalty, courageous people are coming out of the closet world-wide. Co-presented with the Int'l. Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission; introduced by executive director Paula Etzelbrick; followed by Q&A with Egyptian playwright and human rights activist Maher Sabry (Program Director, Jon Sims Center for the Arts), who brought worldwide attention to the 'Cairo 52' and is featured in the film. Free admission for Center members; guests welcome; donations appreciated (NOTAFLOP). 6pm reception; 5pm & 7pm screenings. 1800 Market St. Info: 865-5555; www.afterstonewall.com

'The Art of Living Black' @ Sargent Johnson Gallery, AACC

Opening reception: The Sargent Johnson Gallery at the African American Art & Culture Complex, presents "The Art Of Living Black 2004," curated by Rae Louise Hayward, showcasing six Bay Area artists whose work celebrates the Black experience through the visual arts: Raymond L. Haywood (acrylic & enamel), Amana Johnson (sculptor), Malik Seneferu (acrylic & mixed media), Brian Keith Thomas (mixed media), Tomyé (mixed media & illustration), and Orlanda Uffire (mixed media). Free (donations welcome). 6-8pm. Show runs thru March 27. Regular gallery hours: 12 noon-5pm. 762 Fulton St.

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Swept away

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Sweeps month got into full swing last week as the networks brought out their big guns: specials, interviews, breasts. Perhaps by May sweeps, we'll have full-frontal male nudity on prime time. Or in lieu of that, full disclosure from the Bush Administration.

The scandals were rife on the tube. Janet, Justin and WMD led the ratings, but anyone expecting real apologies hasn't watched enough *American Idol* episodes.

We had hoped Tim Russert would rally for his big *mano a mano* with George Bush on Sunday's *Meet the Press*, but alas, he apparently can only hold Howard Dean's feet to the fire. If Russert could show the same backbone with the Bush Administration that he did with the Clinton cadre, we might actually hear some truths rather than the inevitable equivocating. Russert has long been the only hard-hitting political commentator on the tube (Chris Matthews just calls his show *Hardball*, he doesn't actually play it). To be fair, Russert has attacked some Bush leaguers with the same gusto he exhibited in his now-infamous shredding of Dean last year.

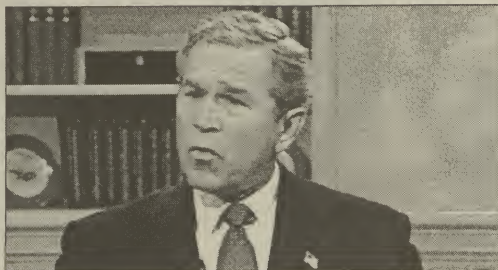
But we have seen Dick Cheney on *MTP* doing his Dr. Strangelove routine and wondered when Russert was going to take him to task. He has brought out Condoleezza Rice's facial tic on several occasions, but he's never actually broken her. We had high hopes for the Bush discussion, but alas, the little wriggler from Texas squirmed away yet again. Is it possible Bush is *not* as dumb as he looks?

The coup de grace of the Russert interview was when Tim asked Bush, "If you did [lose the Presidential election], what would you do?"

GWB: "I don't plan on losing." Be forewarned.

As for Dean, apparently it's all over but the screaming. The once-and-future king has been unmade by the media. We understand it's difficult to have an actual message in this country. Dean has vision and some clarity in his ability to invoke it. And mentions queers every chance he gets, unlike his fellow contenders, who need their feet held to the fire on gay issues. But we deeply disapprove of the way TV has effectively disenfranchised millions of voters.

The disenfranchisement began with that infamous Dean speech after he came in third in Iowa. The speech allegedly eroded his support among constituents and "scared" away would-be voters. He ranked third again in New

Has the Oval Office ever looked so shabby? Pres. Bush on *Meet the Press*.

Hampshire, which made the reveal by Diane Sawyer on the January 28 *ABC Evening News* that the "scream" speech had been radically altered by the networks and dramatically overplayed a too-little, too-late apology. As Sawyer deconstructed it, replete with video, the original speech was exactly as Dean had always characterized it: he was shouting to a crowd of hundreds of supporters, and was attempting to be heard. Except the networks edited out all the background noise.



Lavender Tube

The entire speech was edited and remixed for a completely different impression, which damaged Dean's campaign. Sawyer elicited responses from all the big news teams: ABC, NBC, FOX and CBS. Only the last-named refused comment. The others admitted to the edit and acknowledged they had overplayed both the speech itself and its consequence. Alas, that revelation came too late for Dean. Never underestimate the power of the media.

Stunt man

Why hasn't Justin Timberlake suffered the same negative press as Janet Jackson for their Super Bowl expose? We've watched the tape more times than we saw the Dean "scream," and it was Justin who ripped Janet's outfit, not Janet herself. Forget the obvious, that if your brother has been indicted for sex crimes against children you should play it clean when performing for an audience that's half kids. And forget that this wasn't the MTV Awards, but prime-time network TV on the third-biggest family-viewing night of the year. The stunt still looks bad from every angle.

We didn't like the message of the stunt nor the message of the aftermath. The message of the stunt is that it is okay, even sexy and fun, for men to tear the shirts off women, exposing their breasts in public. The message of the aftermath is similarly bad: it's the woman's fault. We realize the Bush Administration has made us all feel like we've stepped into the wayback machine, but this isn't

really the 1950s. Women are not to blame for men's actions against them. If Janet planned the stunt and Justin agreed to it, they are equally culpable.

Do the network execs watch their own programming? Because we suggest tuning into any soap opera, any prime-time show — *Lo&O*, *NYPD Blue*, *Las Vegas* and *Survivor*, to start — if they want to see partial nudity on the small screen. There are far more repellent moments on TV: the Bush interview, *Dateline's* February 6 interview with David Gest dissing Liza Minnelli for an hour in vulgar detail and exposing his hideous stomach, the horrifying video of 11-year-old Carlie Brucia being abducted and taken to her death. We're squeamish over a bared breast? When are we going to get squeamish about the dead piling up in Iraq? Just a thought.

Breaking news: It's been days since the Massachusetts Supreme Court made its declaration about queer marriage. The Religious Right all weighed in on TV the first day. When will we hear from Senator John Kerry?

Finally, we had a couple of favorite quotes of the week.

Convicted rapist, ear-biter and sociopath-about-town Mike Tyson weighed in on the Janet scandal. He suggested that "we all make mistakes. We all slip on the banana peel of life." We could not have said it better ourselves.

Meanwhile, never afraid of scandal, *Will & Grace* star Megan Mullally (Karen), who hosted *Saturday Night Live* February 7, was the featured guest on *Conan O'Brien* February 5. The ever-hilarious Mullally discussed her sexual proclivities while growing up in Oklahoma. After telling a story about learning to strip with a girlfriend, Mullally added, "I was a total lesbian as a kid. I'd have girls over and be like, 'Can I tickle your back?'"

But no quote can compare with Jennifer Beals' on *Jimmy Kimmel Live* last week. Beals stars on *The L Word*. Kimmel asked her if her mother was bothered by Beals' lovemaking with women on screen. Beals responded that her mother doesn't care if she has sex scenes with men or women, as long as she doesn't have any with George Bush. Now *that's* a mother we can all love. Stay tuned. ▼

Vandalism

◀ page 29

Human: "You slash, delete, burn, negate, deny, repress, torture, legislate — never knowing that queer is human is god is love."

Writer Jim Provenzano's "On Your (Book) Marks" visualizes the queer linguistic text *When Drag Is Not a Car Race* with a festive high-heeled party pump pulling a moldy dictionary, "leading the way toward loosening the lexicon of queer terminology," says

Provenzano.

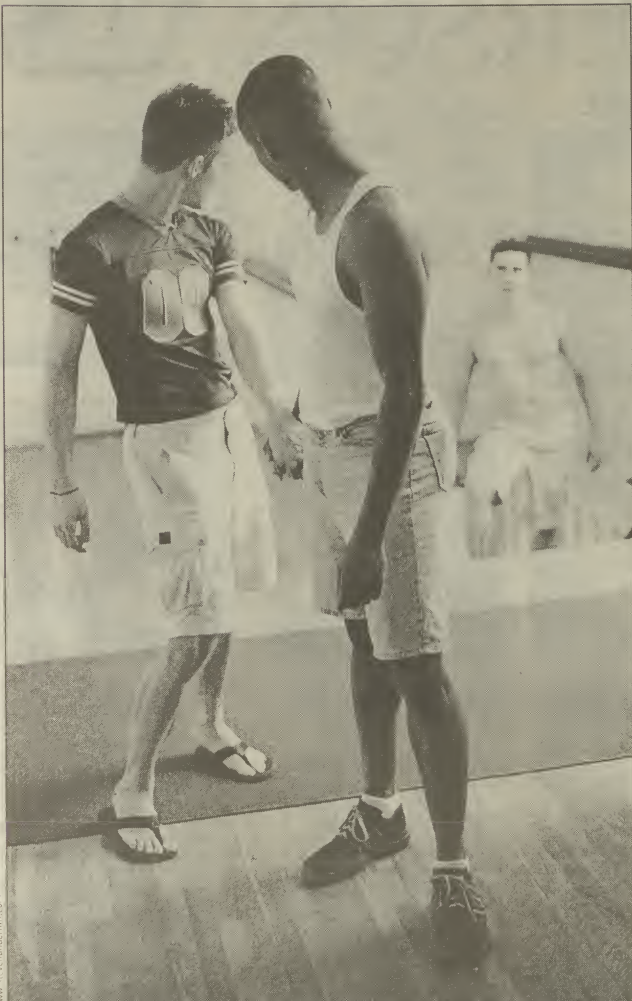
Photographer Daniel Nicoletta's potent, grand photomontage exposes historical censorship, uniting rare Magnus Hirschfeld archival prints, book-burning and the Patriot Act. "If only the vandal had explored the Burroughs mythology of poetics, perhaps he would have found both a useful surrogate to actual vandalism, as well as an effective cathartic tool," says Nicoletta.

Oakland resident Margo Mercedes Rivera-Weiss fashioned a bookbag and glitzy papier-mache

tray, both overlaid in cartoonist Allison Bechtel's comic strips. "Books have literally saved my life," she says, favoring "raw and alive" titles by Chrystos, Essex Hemphill and Joan Nestle.

Friends of the Library Foundation will sell donated artworks at a benefit auction in September to raise money for new books. Van Buskirk joins human-rights advocates in a forum on how communities can unite in opposition to hate crimes, Tues., Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m., at the SFPL, Main Branch, Civic Center. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Castro Theatre Sat. 1/10
Tallied briefly at concession stand before movie "Devot". You: slim, medium height, dark (Tamil? Bengali?) Me: older, short beard, glasses. Would like to meet, talk more. ☎ 71049

Troy: EROS 1-11-04
Carlos with the intense brown eyes wants to see more of you... If you're interested. ☎ 71050

Mr. Mill Valley, SAT. 1/10, SOMA
Your Outstanding. I'd like to reconnect. Please call. ☎ 71058

Saturday 1/10 Bus #48 4:40 pm
You chubby white man aboard bus at Potrero and 24th street. Seated Front. Asked me the time. I reply 20 to 5:00. We looked at each other. You wore beige jacket, glasses w/cane. Me Latin w/bomber jacket, kahki pants. We get off at the same stop. Would love to meet you. ☎ 71057

Red Jeep Driving Down 15th St.
We've exchanged glances at least four times now. I was walking my dog this time. Would love to say hello in person. ☎ 71073

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Free Spaghetti
Win a delicious meal by answering this ad. If you are a slender, masculine guy 18 to 45. Cook is slender, masculine WM, 44. Into Friendship and Naked body contact. ☎ 72907

Husky GLM Bottom
Sagittarius 38yo, 155 lbs, 5'8", nice round ass, slim body HIV+, healthy. Seeking guys under 40 smooth, slim body. Race and size is unimportant. No drugs or heavy drinkers. Gemini, Aries, Taurus, Leo. SF only. ☎ 71059

Seeking Friendship and More
33, Healthy HIV+, 160#, Brn, Brn eyes. Likes books, movies, theatre, cooking, and fitness. Looking to meet someone special. Age and race unimportant. ☎ 71060

Muscular Guy Seeks Huge Nipples
I'm a nice guy w/muscular body, clean, HIV negative, stable. Looking for a smooth, muscular guy with huge protruding nipples to date on a regular basis. I have a very good mouth and wish to satisfy you. ☎ 71061

Muscular Italian AM Seeks Asian
To date on a regular basis. Please be smooth, fit and honest, 25-50, and know what you want. I'm 46 yo, passionate, sensual, sincere. You be mature, honest, and please no games/BS. No one night stands. ☎ 71062

Bound and Gagged
GWM, 46, 5'10", 160, lean, hairy seeks masculine man for dating/possible relationship. Very turned on by role-play, tie up games, top and bottom, securely bound and gagged. Must love bondage. ☎ 71063

Sweet Husky Huggable Mini Bear
ISO friendship or LTR with HIV- GWM, GHM, 38-52. I enjoy movies, gardening, cooking, the ocean! Me: GWM, 5'9", 5'8", blue. SF & Peninsula area. ☎ 71064

Positives Unite!
Silver Fox Top, 19 yrs positive and healthy, seeks positive bottom leading successful life filled with integrity. Deep throats challenged with erotic butt play. ☎ 71072



Looking for that Special Man
I am looking for that special man that I can spend the rest of my life with as my best friend and life partner. I am 5'11", 180#, Italian, HIV-, versatile. You should be GWM, GLM, 40-60. Can't wait to meet. Serious only. ☎ 71069

Santa Rosa Native
SWM, 42, 5'10", 180#, Redhead, Mobile Home owner. Ex Navy. Enjoy drumming, talk radio, chess and tennis. Seeking Female. ☎ 71070

Craving Affection?
Feeling lonely or unloved? Need an understanding new friend to talk to and be held and touched? Slim masculine guy 44 seeks another slim, masculine guy younger or same age, any race. ☎ 71074

GJM 50 Near Lake Merritt
seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc. Not a sex ad. Age, size, race, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. Most friends are women so need more male perspective in my life. ☎ 71075

Need Service? 40 - 60? Mornings?
Seeking oral top who needs & appreciates excellent service. I'm attractive, clean cut, 40, HIV+. You, 40-60 stocky to heavy & really loves good head. No drugs BS. I want to take good care of you. ☎ 71080

Mature Muscular Man
50-60, single, HIV-neg. is what I seek for dating in S.F. I'm Asian, HIV-neg., 5'7", 150#, goatee, smooth 40" chest, 30" waist, NS, ND. ☎ 71081

Black Cock Wanted
White guy, 55, great shape, 6'1", wants to suck on a black cock every night. Will treat it and you really good. ☎ 71082

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Looking For A Hung Guy?
If you're looking for a guy who is hung at least "9" inches, is sexy loves to services, party, 69, watch videos, call me ☎ 71051

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Hispanic Guys. I'm Looking
for Hispanic men who are hung and good-looking and hot, to service, watch videos and have a hot time. ☎ 71053

Looking For Guys In Marin
I'm looking for guys in Marin County, who are hung or good looking, for fun and good times, to party, etc. ☎ 71054

Spanker Wanted for OJK
Spank my bare butt. Will reciprocate if desired or I spank you and no reciprocity required. Me: 159 Lbs, 5'6", curly brown hair. Can Do Scenes. ☎ 71065

Above N' Beyond
Let me be myself, hang between your legs and smell your scent. You place your legs on my shoulders. Make it happen. ☎ 71066

Hot Mature Men
Passionate LM 46, 6', 165lbs. I enjoy giving slow, sensual oral pleasure to senior men. Bearded, kissing, loners. Husky non-gym a plus. Possible LTR. Not into pain, S&M or the gay lifestyle. ☎ 71067

Novice Curious about Anal Sex
Seeking older man with six inches who will take it slow while giving me my first anal exp. Me: 40yo, Brn., Hazel. You over 50 yo. ☎ 71068

Desire Thick Cocked Average Masculine Guy
Heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, phallic worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral OK. Your place, PM only. Not into yoyos, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes only. ☎ 71076

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40, 5'8", 177 pox, healthy mystic honest guy seeking another poz freak pig for ongoing play sessions on regular basis ☎ 71077

Hard Body Hung Dark Meat
Worship by bi white 5'8" tall 175 lbs. 32" w, 7"x5" cut squeaky clean and discreet & grateful. ☎ 71078

Beer and Strip Poker
Lets relax with a few beers and see who ends up naked first. Masculine swimmer with lean build and handsome cut dick looking for another masculine guy with lean build 18-45. ☎ 71083

Spank Your Butt
Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175#, seeks well-built bottom with nice round ass for over-the-knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71086

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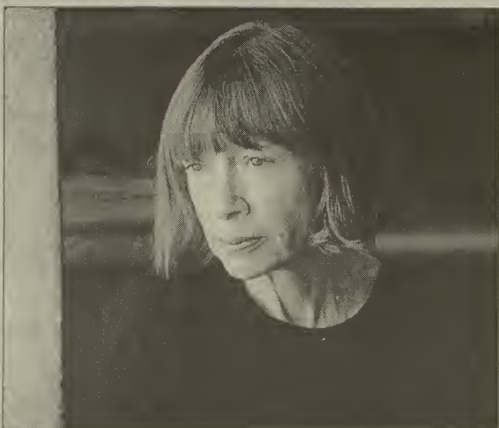
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You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

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Joan Didion writes about the Golden State.

Paradise lost

by Erin Blackwell

Joan Didion is as good as it gets, and *Where I Was From* (Knopf, \$23) is as good as Joan Didion gets. This family history-cum-literary overview-cum-economic exposé-cum-memorial service addresses the concept "California." Didion has written about California before — most famously, in her essay collections *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* (1968) and *The White Album* (1979). Never before, however, has the sixth-generation Californian turned her deconstructive gaze on her own family's founding myths.

Didion waited until her mother died, on May 15, 2001, to definitively call into question "home, there, where I was from, me, California." The resulting 226 compact pages are a must-read for anyone ambivalent about the "Golden State," hungry for insight into its contradictions, or addicted to the Great American Prose Stylist's intoxicating dollops of disillusionment.

Joan Didion applies an accumulated breadth of understanding to the intangible forces at war in California.

For 40 years, Didion's muse has shuttled back and forth between novelist and journalist, storyteller and story-doubter, poet and fact-checker. These two poles are now firmly knit together. Rhythmic elegance is a sheer skin stretched over cherry-picked sociological detail; borrowed buzzwords dance like metered feet. Translucent prose reveals delusions debunked, the founding delusion being "the life I was raised to admire."

Since her first novel, *Run River* (1963), an homage to her native Sacramento written in New York, the petite genius has slowly but surely expanded the range of her disbeliefs, making a careful inventory of the verbal relics of each faith excavated. She's spent a long time observing the US political system and its unintended disasters, here and abroad, in articles and books like *The Book of Common Prayer* (1977), *Salvador* (1983), *Miami* (1987), *The Last Thing He Wanted* (1996), and *Political Fictions* (2001). She applies this accumulated breadth of understanding

to the intangible forces at war in California.

Didion takes, as her texts, Joan Irvine on the vanished beauties of the ranchlands she sold for tract homes; Big Sur's Robinson Jeffers on the undesirability of human society; developer Mark Taper on the glories of Lakewood; mass-produced painter Thomas Kinkaid's sales brochure; her own *Run River*, and more. She finds Frank Norris' novel *The Octopus* (1901) "the most complex statement to date of the California condition." A hundred years on, the soulless profiteering denounced by Norris is the multinational norm.

Donner party

"To get all there was out of the land, to squeeze it dry, to exhaust it, seemed [the San Joaquin growers'] policy," Didion quotes Norris. "When, at last, the land, worn out, would refuse to yield, they would invest their money in something else; by then, they would all have made fortunes. They did not care." The Californian dream turns out to be, like the

Donner party that chased it overland in 1846, self-cannibalizing.

The "crossing story," the oral and written histories of how Didion's people reached the West Coast from points East, is the framing fable of *Where I Was From*. Once Didion dismantles her family's "strikingly unearned" pioneer pride, the "enchantment" lifts, and the Motherland is revealed as a patchwork of cynical business deals, enabled by a free-loading populace.

"The transformation of the Bohemian Club from a lively if frivolous gathering of local free spirits to a nexus of the nation's corporate and political interests," runs an emblematic sentence, "in many ways mirrored a larger transformation, that of California itself from what it had been, or from what its citizens preferred to believe that it had been, to what it is now, an entirely dependent colony of the invisible empire in which those corporate and political interests are joined."

California deserved so much better than it got. At least there's Didion. ▼

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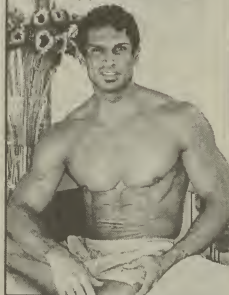
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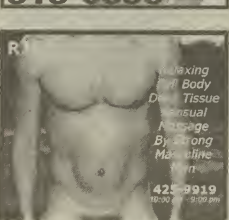
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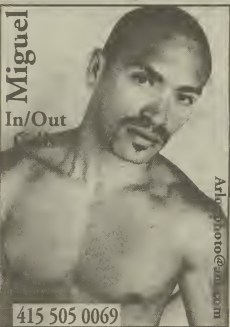
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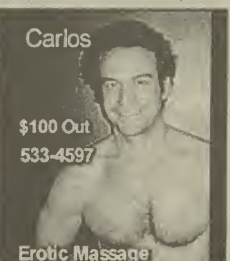
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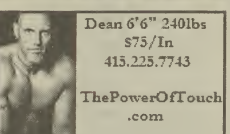
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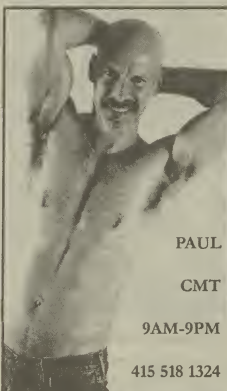
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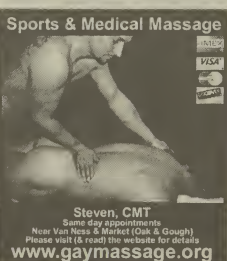
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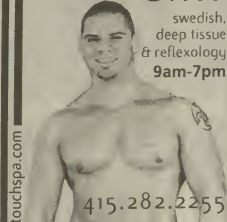
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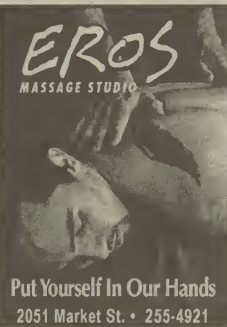
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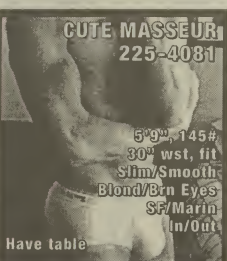
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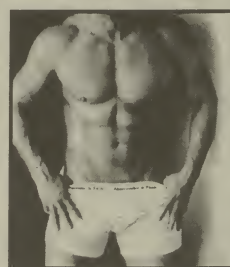
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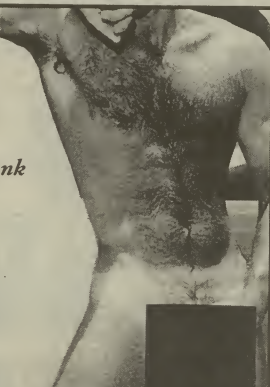
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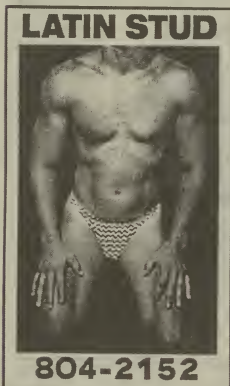
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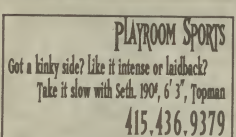
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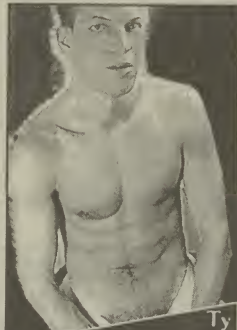
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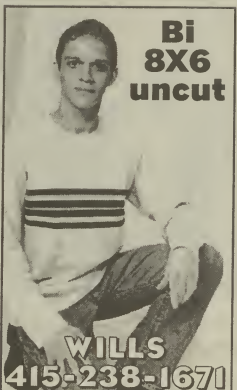
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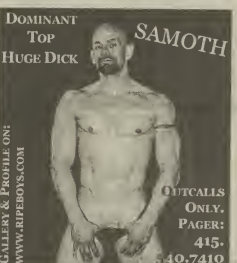
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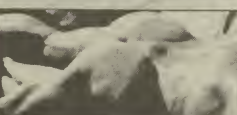



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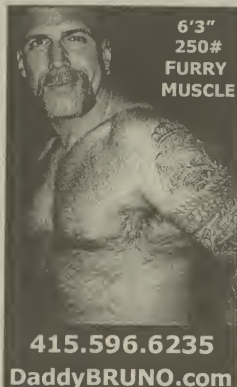



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AT METROPOLIS!

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT METROPOLIS BOX OFFICE
\$5 OFF TICKET PRICES WITH IBR ID
PROCEEDS BENEFIT SAFESEX.ORG

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
MORE INFO: WWW.GUSPRESENTS.COM

SUNDAY TEA DANCE!

JUST 6 BLOCKS FROM OUR BUDS AT THE LONE STAR!

E! SUNDAY TEA DANCE! SUNDAY TEA DA
CASTROBEAR PRESENTS

MAUL!

FEATURING
MAUL HOUSE DJ

DJ JUNKY BEAR
MARTIN

WITH SPECIAL GUEST DJS
OPENING EACH MONTH!

**PLENTY OF ROOM
TO HANG, LOUNGE
MASSAGE &
DANCE!**

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15
4PM - MIDNIGHT
FREE WITH THIS FLIER BEFORE 6 PM
\$5 BEFORE 8PM \$8 AFTER 8PM
DANCE HANG LOUNGE & MASSAGE
IN THE HIBERNATION DEN
CHERRY BEAR 917 FOLSOM @ FIFTH

FREE FOOD FROM 5-8! FREE ADMISSION ALL
NIGHT TO IBR REGISTRANTS AND VOLUNTEERS!

PHOTOS COURTESY: 100% BEEF MAGAZINE @ WWW.BEEFMAG.COM / DESIGN: WWW.RUSTYSPOT.COM

SUNDAY NIGHT!

GUS PRESENTS and CASTROBEAR PRESENTS
Proudly Bring You...

SWEAT
AT SANCTUARY!

**SUNDAY
FEB**
10PM - 6AM
SANCTUARY
525 HARRISON STREET
SAN FRANCISCO

DJ DAVID KNAPP
DJ NEIL LEWIS

Tickets: \$20 Advance / \$30 Door
Available at:
Body • Always Tan & Trim • SF
The Watergarden • SJ
Perfect Beat • LA
Online: www.guspresents.com
Plus! Photo Gallery Exhibition
by WesleyRogers@iBitter.com

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HANG ON... IT AIN'T OVER 'TIL MONDAY!

When the BOSF Present their Annual Auction! Free Continental Buffet at 9AM
followed by an auction you'll not soon forget at 10AM. MC'd by SF's Lenny Brothberg
Even if you don't bid on anything, you get a BIG show with Lenny!!